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PROPOSITIONS
FOR
IMPROVING
THE
MANUFACTURES,
Agriculture *and* Commerce,
OF
GREAT BRITAIN.

[Price One Shilling and Six-pence.]

Engrad. [Alt. - Trade sc.]

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SECTION I.

AS it has pleaſed Almighty God to put an end to this very expenſive and bloody war, and to furniſh us with the means of putting every part of this vaſt empire in a ſtate of ſecurity, we ſhould think no more of victory and conqueſt, but uſe our utmoſt endeavours to outdo each other in promoting the arts of peace; eſpecially as the æra is approaching, and near at hand, which will doom this mighty empire to future

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glory, or inevitable deſtruction. — Tho' the late war has been the moſt ſucceſsful to us of any war we were ever engaged in, and, in the opinion of unthinking people, tended to raiſe us to honour and proſperity; yet, as it was carried on at an expence much beyond what the public revenue would admit of, if we do not immediately retract our expences, and ſtudy every art of oeconomy, as well as the means of bringing a ballance of ſpecie among us from other trading nations, this war muſt unavoidably prove the deſtruction and deſolation of this iſland. — Happy, thrice happy, will it be for us, if the mean arts of corruption and bribery, thoſe peſts to honour and proſperity, which have precipitated this ſtate into the greateſt degree of danger and diſtreſs, could be totally aboliſhed from among us: I truſt they will be gradually extirpated from this ſtate, eſpecially as our Sovereign has the honour and proſperity of his kingdoms at heart, and has ſignified his intention to reform the public abuſes: therefore if our miniſters and parliament will follow the example of their leader, and immortalize their fame, what grandeur, what glory, and happineſs, may we expect, not only for ourſelves,

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but for future generations.—Much will depend upon the preſent negociating treaties of trade and commerce, to ſettle our intereſts properly with foreign powers, and as well upon the deliberations of the parliament: but except perſons in private ſtations unite in promoting the wiſh'd-for reformation, I fear there will be an impoſſibility of carrying it into execution.—If the preſent precious minutes are not properly improved, by carrying every frugal plan and meaſure into execution, and by promoting the inland and foreign commerce of this iſland to the utmoſt extent, and the ſame political grievances, and depravity of manners, be again introduced, which ſucceeded the wars of Queen Anne and King George II. and be ſuffered to remain uncontrolled, deſtruction and deſolation muſt inevitably follow.—Here, perhaps, many who are lulled into a ſtate of ſecurity will ſtart up and ſay, that our military power, and our trade, were never greater, nor individuals never richer, than at preſent. It is true: but this was nearly the ſtate of the republic of Genoa within a very few years before it was intirely ſtript of all its foreign ſettlements and commerce, and ſunk into an inactive and deſpicable ſtate, in which it has ever ſince continued. Our expences in

every part of this war, particularly in Germany, were made without meaſure, becauſe without controul, as any perſon may ſoon be convinced, who looks into the forage, artillery, hoſpital, and other contingent accounts. Nothing calls aloud ſo much for redreſs, as the frauds the public has ſuſtained by the infamy of the contractors in Germany, many of whom, who were inſignificant perſons, have lately retired with three or four hundred thouſand pounds of the public money in their pockets; altho' by this means, as well as by many other frauds equally notorious, I will venture to ſay the national debt has been increaſed, during this war, not leſs than 20,000,000 *l.* which, conſidering our diſtreſſed ſituation, at this time, is an object which ſhould be carefully conſidered. — It is calculated that the Dutch, and other foreign powers, have not leſs than 50,000,000 *l.* in our funds; and if they are paid but three *per cent. per annum* for the ſame, we muſt pay them 1,500,000 *l.* in ſpecie; a tax upon our induſtry too great to be ſupported, except by ſome extraordinary means. —Deplorable as our ſituation is, let us not deſpair, becauſe we have it ſtill in our power to pay our debts, raiſe this iſland to a degree of ſplendor unknown to former ages, and

give laws to all the maritime powers in Europe. When Henry the fourth had put an end to the civil wars of France, and concluded a peace with Spain, his kingdom was then, if poſſible, in a worſe condition than Great Britain is now: her debts were heavier, in proportion to the means ſhe had for paying them, and the individuals in many of her provinces were entirely exhauſted, and none of them in a condition to bear any new impoſition: add to this, that the whole ſcheme of adminiſtration was a ſcheme of fraud, and all who ſerved, cheated the public, from the higheſt officers in the treaſury, down to the loweſt officers in the collection of the revenue; inſomuch that, tho' one hundred and fifty millions were raiſed on the people, thirty millions only were brought into the king's coffers. In this ſituation did the duke de Sully, the honeſt miniſter of this great king, behold the ſtate of France, when he came to have the ſole ſuperintendency of her affairs. However, like a noble and good miniſter, who lov'd his king and country, he made the reduction of expences, and the reformation of abuſes, a ſinking fund for the payment of the national debts, and as well for carrying into execution

the great things he had planned, without overcharging the people.—Sully ſucceeded in all his attempts; the king's coffers were ſoon filled, a maritime power raiſed, trade revived, and every thing prepared to put the nation in a condition of undertaking any great deſign, whenever an opportunity ſhould offer for the ſame. Such was the effect of twelve years honeſt and prudent adminiſtration; and if Henry the fourth had not been cut off by a villain, and Sully been diſgraced, he would have made France the moſt formidable power in the world.—France was reduced to a no leſs degree of horror when the great Colbert had firſt the ſuperintendancy of the finances, in the reign of Lewis the XIVth; but that wiſe and prudent miniſter ſoon retrieved the ruinous ſtate of the kingdom, and raiſed a maritime power, which bid defiance to two of the greateſt maritime powers in Europe: in fact, it muſt be confeſſed, that thoſe two great miniſters were the means of ſaving that kingdom from inevitable deſtruction, by wiſely and vigorouſly improving the opportunities which divine providence had appointed for the ſame.—I have quoted thoſe examples to ſhew how much it is in the power of an

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honeſt and good miniſter to eaſe the diſtreſſes of his country, and to raiſe her to power and grandeur. The condition of this kingdom, at preſent, is, in many reſpects, no leſs deplorable than that of France was in either of the adminiſtrations before-mentioned, as their diſtreſſes were but temporary, ours muſt be laſting; and France, from the nature of her government, may ſtop payment without any ill conſequences; but if that ſhould ever be the caſe with us, a ſcene of horror and confuſion muſt immediately follow. — Before the cloſe of the year 1763 the debts of this ſtate will amount to above 140,000,000 *l.* for which we muſt pay intereſt regularly, or expect the conſequences before-mentioned; and therefore every honeſt patriot will uſe his utmoſt efforts to guard againſt the danger.—It will undoubtedly be ſaid, that we have no Sullys nor Colberts among us: whether we have, or not, I ſhall not pretend to determine; but I will venture to ſay, that we have men of honeſty and integrity among us; and a prince will never be wanting of good miniſters, who has diſcernment enough to chuſe thoſe who have ſuperior parts, experience, and integrity; and who

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reſolves to ſupport them againſt the caballing of the court, and the factions of the ſtate; which, in fact, was the caſe both of Sully and Colbert.—This iſland ſeems to be arrived at a criſis which muſt either turn to our future glory, or our deſtruction; and this peace will either introduce a general decay in our trade and commerce, in conſequence of thoſe of our neighbours being revived, and of the additional taxes which our heavy debts muſt keep on our induſtry; or otherwiſe, if, by care and oeconomy, we are eaſed at home, we ſhall ſee every individual exerting himſelf in all parts of his majeſty's dominions, and not only many new manufactures eſtabliſhed, but every uſeful plan carried into execution which may tend to promote our foreign trade in all parts of the world.—The latter has been the care of France at the cloſe of all her wars, and is the meaſure ſhe is taking at preſent; every uſeful plan is there carefully examined, and whatever is meritorious is immediately carried into execution. The Author, therefore, in the following ſheets, has endeavoured to draw the outlines of a plan which, he humbly conceives, would tend to increaſe the trade and manufactures of this iſland; and

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he will think himſelf extremely happy, if the public ſhould be of the ſame opinion, and carry the whole, or any part thereof, into execution.

SECTION II.

The principal Diſadvantages which the Inhabitants of this Iſland labour under at preſent with regard to their Trade, Manufactures, and Agriculture.

1. THE firſt and great diſadvantage is that of being underſold by the French and Dutch in our principal manufactured goods. This is a terrible wound to our commerce, and without a remedy is ſpeedily applied to the ſame, it muſt in the end prove fatal. At the Liſbon, Brazil, Turky, Spaniſh, German, and Italian markets we are underſold conſiderably in one of the ſtaple commodities of our own country; and what is ſtill worſe, our merchants and traders, inſtead

inſtead of endeavouring to prevent this growing evil, aſſert the impoſſibility thereof, while the price of labour is ſo extravagant in this kingdom, and therefore totally diſregard a point, which, if too long neglected, may be our ruin.

2. Another diſadvantage which the trade and induſtry of this iſland labours under, is the multiplicity of poor and idle people which infeſt almoſt every part thereof, and the heavy tax which is raiſed for the ſupport of the ſame. This is a capital grievance on the induſtrious, and calls loudly for reformation; and, though I am ſorry to ſay it, every method which has been hitherto uſed has rather tended to increaſe than remedy the evil; as the populous, and even the meaneſt claſſes of people, may be led, but will not be driven, no, not with ſcourges.

3. The heavy taxes which are laid on the common neceſſaries of life is another great burthen upon our trade and induſtry. The lower claſſes of people, and our manufacturers, take advantage of the advanced price of thoſe neceſſaries to raiſe their wages in a double proportion; and, for want of a proper ſubordination, to create riots and confuſion:

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this is ſufficiently exemplified by the late tax laid on beer.

4. The want of a proper police to aſcertain the daily pay of journeymen, labourers, and manufacturers; to redreſs their grievances; to prevent robbing and plundering; and to keep proper degrees of ſubordination among the populous, is a great detriment to the trading intereſt of this iſland; and is one of the evils which, if not properly guarded againſt, tend to the total deſtruction of commerce and government.

5. The manner of our collecting the duties on imported goods is a very great clog to our foreign commerce. Merchants, who have ſmall capitals, are greatly ſtreighten'd in their traffick, by making immediate payments for the duties of all the goods they import, whether they can find a market for the ſale thereof or not; and frequently from loſſes of this kind, and narrowneſs of circumſtances, ſtop payment, and become bankrupts. In the ſummer 1762, the merchants trading to Oporto, from the troubles in Portugal, were obliged to bring home all their ſtock of wines which lay in that country, to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy;

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but alas! the duties upon this great quantity of wines amounted to ſuch a large ſum, that, if the Lords of the Treaſury had not been ſo indulgent as to allow one year for the payment thereof, many of this reſpectable body of merchants muſt have been bankrupted, or loſe their wines: this is likewiſe the reaſon why many of our merchants are obliged, at a large expence, to hire warehouſes in foreign countries, as repoſitories for their goods, till their circumſtances permit to bring them home.

6. The importation of a large quantity of iron, hemp, and other naval ſtores, from Ruſſia and Sweden, particularly from the latter, where three parts in four of all our imports are paid for with ſpecie, is very detrimental to the nation in general, when we can have every article thereof from our own colonies, in equal perfection, as will be hereafter fully explained. The body of merchants trading to thoſe countries have uſed their utmoſt endeavours to fruſtrate every means which have been taken to promote this national good; but I hope the legiſlature will ſee thro' their artifice, and make the good

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of the public an object more worthy of their attention than that of individuals.

7. The ſowing our grain, particularly our wheat, barley, and oats, in the ſame kind of ſoil, for any number of years, has been a great detriment to our agriculture; as this practice not only debaſes the grain, but conſiderably leſſens the crops, as every experienced farmer can teſtify: but what ſurpriſes me the moſt, is, that our ſpeculative gentlemen, and experienced farmers, inſtead of employing their attention on drill-ploughs, horſe-hoeing, &c. (a practice which experience has proved to be very detrimental to our agriculture) have not endeavoured to remedy this inconvenience.

8. The commercial intereſt of this iſland, and, in fact, the political intereſt likewiſe, have been conſiderably hurt, by the jarrings and animoſity which have, for ſome time paſt, ſubſiſted between our principal landed and monied gentlemen; each party ſuppoſing that its own intereſt was particularly detached from the general commercial intereſts of the nation.

9. Nothing can be of greater detriment to the trading intereſt of this kingdom than the great

great number of ſmugglers in almoſt every part thereof; particularly of thoſe who ſmuggle teas, wines, and French brandy. Thoſe wretches are not only of the greateſt detriment to the fair traders, but to the public in general, as they carry off nothing but ſpecie and wool in exchange for the goods they ſmuggle; and at the ſame time put the nation to a very great expence in maintaining of officers, ſloops, cutters, &c. to guard againſt them; many of whom, inſtead of endeavouring to ſuppreſs this practice, rather encourage it, by going ſhares in the profits. Moreover this infamous practice debauches the lower claſſes of people, and becomes a nurſery for idleneſs, and all kinds of vice and extravagance.

10. Our public companies and monopolies are a great clog to our foreign commerce, and manufacturers. In this place I cannot forbear taking notice of our Turky company, which, as I ſhall hereafter clearly prove, hath been the chief means of reducing our valuable trade to the great empire of Turky, and of eſtabliſhing that of France upon its foundation. The Hudſon's-Bay company has been no leſs detrimental to this kingdom; but, as we have

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at preſent all the furr trade of Canada in our poſſeſſion, the ill effects thereof will not be ſo ſeverely felt: therefore, as the commerce of this kingdom has been greatly hurt by thoſe monopolizers, it is hoped that the government will not grant any more charters for excluding his majeſty's ſubjects from a free trade to all parts of the world, which are open at preſent, as they are all intitled thereto; and at the ſame time, that they will at leaſt oblige theſe public companies, at preſent ſubſiſting, to give ſufficient ſecurity that they will increaſe the quantities of our manufactured goods for exportation, as much as the nature of their reſpective branches of commerce will admit; and likewiſe, that their imports may be ſufficient to ſupply all their markets; ſo that the public may not be injured for the exorbitant profit of individuals.

11. Our North-American colonies ſetting up manufactures among themſelves, and, at the ſame time, ſmuggling into that continent a large quantity of the Dutch, German, and French manufactured goods, by the connivance of our cuſtom-houſe officers, muſt be a great detriment to the manufactures and commerce of this kingdom. Many ſelf-in-

tereſted people, who hear this fact, will be ready to tell us, that the North American manufactures are very inſignificant, and that it is impoſſible they ſhould ever hurt us: but, it is well known, that there is, at this time, a large linnen manufactory at Boſton in New-England, carried on by Iriſh and Scotch manufacturers, and ſupported by the principal merchants in that town; and that there is another, equally flouriſhing, near Philadelphia, ſupported by the chief of the quakers: and moreover, that there are ſeveral ſmall woollen manufactories in New-England and Penſylvania, which work up the greateſt part of the wool of thoſe countries; to ſay nothing of the large manufactory of hats in New-York. Now, in my humble opinion, theſe infant manufactories, which are every day increaſing, are not very inſignificant; and without great care is taken to check the ſame, and ſome honeſt officers ſent thither to put a ſtop to the importation of any European manufactured goods, except thoſe of this iſland, it may be attended with fatal conſequences to us, who have run ourſelves ſo much in debt for their ſupport.

12. The prohibition of Iriſh proviſions,

and the cramping the importation of wool and yarn, from that kingdom, is a very great detriment to our manufactures and commerce: the former tends greatly to raiſe the price of proviſions among our poor people, and conſequently the price of labour muſt be raiſed in proportion; and the latter is the chief means of furniſhing our enemies with a great quantity of wool. This ill-judged policy, and unaccountable infatuation, of the directors of our public affairs, has been very prejudicial to this kingdom; for, if the produce of Ireland does not find a market in England, it will in France. The wool which is ſold by the Iriſh people to the French, and by them manufactured, and thoſe manufactured goods ſent to oppoſe our own commodities in foreign markets, might be manufactured in England, to the very great loſs of France, and no leſs benefit of this country, as will be hereafter clearly demonſtrated. Again; if the proviſions of Ireland were always to find a market in this iſland, it would be a great means of reducing the price of labour among us, and increaſing it in France, where a vaſt quantity of thoſe proviſions are carried in

time of peace. Moreover, as we have Canada in our poſſeſſion, the French, in any future war, would be ſo much cramped for ſalt proviſions, that it would be almoſt impoſſible for them to victual their ſhips to make head againſt us.

13. The manufactures and commerce of this iſland are conſiderably hurt by the advanced price of the commodities of our Weſt-Indian iſlands; whereby we are not only under-ſold in all the European markets by the French, but ſuffer conſiderably at home; and, as ſuch an immenſe quantity of thoſe commodities is made uſe of in this kingdom at preſent, this muſt no leſs tend to increaſe the price of labour, than the prohibition of the Iriſh proviſions.

14. The want of proper laws to encourage matrimony, and diſcourage celibacy, is a great diſadvantage to the trade and manufactures of this kingdom; which was never more ſenſibly felt than during the laſt years of this war, when many of our manufactures were at a ſtand for want of hands, notwithſtanding there were not more than 200,000 men drain'd off from the whole iſland. The Laws of France oblige all unmarried men to

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ſerve as common ſoldiers in the army, or in the militia, except ſuch as are exempted on account of particular profeſſions, or high rank; but, as ſoon as they are married, they are exempted from this duty: moreover, if any man is married, and has ten children, he is free from moſt kinds of taxes; and if he has but ſeven children, he is free, or nearly ſo, from the capitation tax. By this means the common people and manufacturers in that kingdom are always kept induſtrious, and dare not run into lewdneſs and debauchery; but are, as it were, obliged to enter into matrimony, and to raiſe up large families to labour, and keep down the price of it; and conſequently thereby enable the merchant to ſell his manufactured goods cheaper:—but the contrary of all this is practiſed in this country.

15. The high price of labour is a fatal ſtab to the trade and manufactures of this country; and without the greateſt care is taken, it will, in time, be attended with very dreadful conſequences. Some of the chief cauſes of which have been already aſſigned in the three foregoing articles.

16. The trade and manufactures of this

country labour under a very great diſadvantage for want of more navigable rivers and canals. Every perſon muſt be ſenſible of the heavy tax which is laid on our manufactures, and the produce of agriculture, by our expenſive land carriage, eſpecially on our turnpike roads. Nature has ſo formed this country, that there are very few of our large trading towns which are not ſituated on or near the banks of rivers, which might, for a very ſmall expence, in proportion to the advantages which might be reap'd thereby, be made navigable to their ſources; though, perhaps, there is not a commercial country in the world where leſs pains have been taken to improve this great and national advantage.

17. Our want of having a proper regard for our fellow-ſubjects, and for our own manufactures, has been no ſmall detriment to our commercial intereſt, and tended to increaſe that of our neighbours and rivals. — It is a melancholy obſervation, that there is not in this kingdom any claſs of people, from the firſt peers to the meaneſt mechanics, who are not more fond of, and ſet a much greater value on, foreign people, and foreign manufactured goods, than they are of their own fellow-

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ſubjects, and the manufactured goods and commodities of this kingdom.—A nobleman of Great Britain imagines that he cannot live in elegance, taſte, and refinement, and ſhew himſelf with dignity and ſplendor, except he has French tutors, both male and female, for his children; French valet-de-chambres, milliners, and hair-dreſſers; French cooks and porters; French wines to his table; French cambricks, laces, &c. for his linnen; ſilks, velvets, and gold and ſilver laces, for his garments; and, except the French language is ſpoken through all his family: he thinks that the Engliſh language is very uncouth and unpolite, and that an Engliſh education is only calculated for tradeſmen, and the inferior claſſes of people: he looks upon the Engliſh ſervants as only fit to be hewers of wood and drawers of water to the more polite part of the human ſpecies: then he ſuppoſes our manufactured goods to be greatly inferior, in point of elegance, to thoſe of France, Italy, and Germany; and that, were it not for the delicious wines of France, it would be impoſſible to make an elegant entertainment in this iſland. This is the laudable example which is ſet by many of the higher claſſes of

people, and which the inferior gentry endeavour to imitate, as far as their circumſtances will allow them: nay, even the meaneſt ſhop-keepers and mechanics muſt have French wines at their tables, or they think their entertainments are not elegant; and their children muſt be taught the French language, or they are thought to be unfit for polite converſation.—The people of France, on the other hand, very juſtly eſteem the Engliſh language as the ſtrongeſt and moſt nervous of any, except the ancient Greek, which is ſpoken, at preſent, in any part of the world; and therefore all their elegant authors, and men of letters, endeavour to acquire a thorough knowledge of the ſame: but, becauſe they will not offer their country ſuch an indignity, as to introduce any foreign language in public places, we rarely, if ever, hear any other language ſpoken in any polite company in France, but that of their own country. Then all the men of learning in France will readily acknowledge, that no part of the known world has ever produced a greater number of learned men, in all branches of literature, than this iſland; and that there is no part of the world, where

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ſolid learning, of every kind, is in greater perfection than it is amongſt us at preſent. —The greateſt part of the Engliſh manufactured goods are univerſally allowed, not only in France, but in every other part of the world, to be the beſt and moſt uſeful of their kind: this fact the French have long ſince perceived, to their no ſmall mortification; and therefore, when they ſaw that they could not make their goods, equally uſeful and elegant with ours, they immediately ſet about making inferior ſorts, which they could afford to ſell cheaper in foreign markets, as the only chance they had to rival us; and in this they have happily ſucceeded, to our very great loſs. But what contributed chiefly to this ſucceſs, and to diſcourage our trade, was, the regard which the inhabitants of France, of all denominations, ſhewed for their own manufactures, and the pains which they took to extol, and promote the ſale of the ſame. This they made a national point; for when a French nobleman, or any gentleman of an inferior rank, travels, or reſides in, any foreign country, from a national pride, he is not only extolling the produce and manufactures of his own country,

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but he ſhows ſpecimens thereof in his own garments, and at his own table. The Engliſh gentleman, on the contrary, when he is in any foreign country, inſtead of ſetting forth the produce and manufactures of his own country, takes a very effectual method to depreciate the ſame in the eyes of foreigners; namely, that of wearing French manufactured goods, in preference to thoſe of England, which gives occaſion to the exulting Frenchman to praiſe his gaudy toys, and to condemn goods which are infinitely preferable.

18. The intereſt of this iſland has been conſiderably hurt, by our not properly providing for ſuch ſailors, ſoldiers, ſhip-carpenters, and others, who were diſcharged from the government's ſervice, at the cloſe of our laſt wars; particularly the ſailors and ſhip-carpenters, who are a very large body of men, and, in fact, the chief bulwark and ſupport of this kingdom. It is well known, that as ſoon as the treaty of Utrecht was agreed on, the miniſtry, who, in fact, had rather the deſtruction, than the good of the kingdom at heart, ordered many of our regiments to be broke and diſcharged in Spain, and other foreign countries; and many of our ſhips of

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war to be condemned, and the men diſcharged, in foreign parts. Now it is likewiſe a well known fact, that a common ſoldier has ſeldom above a week's pay in ſtore, and many times none at all; and therefore thoſe poor fellows muſt either ſtarve in a foreign country, beg their bread of their enemies, or enter into their ſervice: either of which our miniſtry thought a ſufficient recompence for their paſt ſervices. Many of thoſe common ſoldiers, who were bred manufacturers, entered into the ſervice of Spain for want of bread; and, as I am creditably informed, were the means of eſtabliſhing the woollen manufacture in Spain upon a permanent foundation: and ſome thouſands of our ſailors, who were at that time diſcharged in foreign parts, entered into foreign ſervices, to the very great detriment of this kingdom.—Again; ſoon after the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, many thouſands of our ſailors and ingenious ſhip-carpenters were diſcharged from the government's ſervice, and reduced to the greateſt neceſſities; indeed to the want of bread. Our miniſters were ſoon informed thereof, but diſregarded their diſtreſs, and obliged many thouſands

of

of our moſt able ſailors to enter into foreign ſervices; and a great number of our moſt ingenious ſhip-carpenters and artificers to enter into the ſervices of France and Spain, and were the perſons who built the greateſt part of the formidable navies which thoſe powers have raiſed to oppoſe us in this preſent war. Therefore as the time approaches, and is near at hand, when many thouſands of our fellow-ſubjects will be diſcharged from the government's ſervice, I believe is is the opinion of every well-meaning Engliſhman, that proper proviſion ſhould be made for the ſame, to prevent the ill effects which muſt otherwiſe unavoidably follow, and of which we have recent examples.

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SECTION III.

Containing a Plan for improving our Manufactures, and rendering them equally cheap and good, in foreign Markets, with thoſe of France and Holland.

PROPOSAL I.

To ſet up manufactories in the eaſtern parts of Cornwall, in Devon, Dorſet, and the ſouthern parts of Somerſet, for working light druggets, commonly called the French druggets, and an inferior ſpecies of our ſuperfine cloth, commonly called Dutch cloth, for the Lisbon and ſouthern markets.

OUR chief merchants and manufacturers have endeavoured to amuſe mankind in general, and even the legiſlature itſelf, with the notion, that, from the high price of labour in this kingdom, it is impoſſible for us to manufacture our cloths, and bring them to market, upon the ſame footing with thoſe of France and

and Holland; and that it would rather be prudent for us to decline thoſe branches of manufacture wherein they were our rivals, thoſe above-mentioned in particular. Now I ſhall endeavour under this head, from undoubted facts, to prove that we have been impoſed upon, and that we could carry on the above-mentioned branches of manufacture upon as good a footing as they can in France or Holland; and the reaſon why our manufacturers decline the entering into thoſe branches, is, from their ignorance of the principles on which they are made; from the branches they are at preſent engaged in being more profitable; or from ſome worſe principle.—The price of labour in the different manufacturing towns in France, will be found to be nearly as follows: at Rouen, Rheims, Darnetal, Niort, Paſtenay, Troyes, Chaumont du Baſſigny, Chalons, Langres, and Liſle, the journeymen weavers, who work on druggets, and other inferior cloths, will get 23 ſous *per* day, *i. e.* about 6*s.* 4*d.* *per* week of our money. Women employ'd in ſpinning, from 10 to 12 ſous *per* day; *i. e.* from 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.* ſterling *per* week. Journeymen weavers and cloth finiſhers, who work on the ſuperfine cloths, at Abbeville and Amiens,

Amiens, will get the former from 30 to 35 ſous *per* day, *i. e.* from 8*s.* 3*d.* to 9*s.* 6*d. per* week; and the latter 50 ſous *per* day, *i. e.* 13*s.* 6*d. per* week. At Niſmes the Journeymen weavers in the ſilk and ſtocking trade get from 28 to 30 ſous *per* day.—At the Devizes, Chippenham, Frome, Shepton-Mallet, Taunton, Tiverton, and in moſt of the clothing towns in the weſt of England, our journeymen weavers, who work on the inferior kinds of cloth, will ſometimes, as they work by the piece, make their wages 8*s. per* week; but, for the moſt part, they do not get above 7*s. per* week, and ſometimes not more than 6*s.* 6*d*; and the ſpinners ſeldom make their wages more than 6*d.* a day, and frequently not more than 4*d. per* day.—At Bradford and Trowbridge, the journeymen weavers, who work on our ſuperfine cloths, never make their wages above 10*s. per* week, and for the moſt part not above 8*s. per* week, and the ſpinners cannot make above 6*d. per* day; but the cloth finiſhers will make their wages from 14*s.* to 15*s. per* week. But I muſt further obſerve, that an Engliſh manufacturer will do more work in ſix days than a Frenchman can in ſeven days, altho' the lat-

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ter exerts himſelf to the utmoſt, and at the ſame time do the work much better. Hence therefore it is evident, that cloth may be manufactured in the chief manufacturing towns in England, as cheap as in the manufacturing towns in France. Then there is no compariſon between the Engliſh and the Dutch manufacturers; for, altho' the price of labour is cheaper in Holland than it is in England, an Engliſhman will do as much work in two days as the ſluggiſh Dutchman can poſſibly do in three days. — I have mentioned the eaſtern parts of Cornwall, Devon, Dorſet, and the ſouthern parts of Somerſet, as moſt proper to eſtabliſh thoſe manufactures in, becauſe the price of labour is conſiderably cheaper in thoſe parts than in the large manufacturing towns; and beſides, there are ſome thouſands of poor in thoſe parts which are at preſent unemploy'd. — The light druggets, commonly called the French drugget, is a kind of cloth greatly eſteemed by the Spaniards and Portugueſe, for its being well work'd, though at the ſame time thin, light, and cheap. The French were the firſt introducers of this manufacture; and are, at this time, the ſole venders thereof in the Liſbon

Lisbon and Spaniſh markets, to the very great detriment of our trade. Various attempts have been made to make this uſeful manufacture in this kingdom, and thereby to rival our enemies in this branch of trade; but none, that I have heard of, have ſucceeded, except one of the worthy proprietors, who eſtabliſhed the manufactury at Penryn in Cornwall. This gentleman, whoſe uncommon diligence in promoting the good of his country deſerved a better fate, went himſelf into thoſe parts of France where this branch of manufacture was carried on, and diſcovered the principles on which it was made, and afterwards eſtabliſhed, at a great expence, a manufacture thereof at Penryn, where he made druggets equally light and fine with thoſe of France, and could deliver them at the Liſbon markets for the ſame price that the French do theirs; and, if he had had a quick return, get a good profit for himſelf. But, reader! expreſs thy ſurprize! when I tell thee, that this branch of manufacture, which would be attended with ſuch national advantages, was entirely ſtopped, and the worthy introducer thereof almoſt ruined, becauſe he thought it his duty to vote againſt

the preſent repreſentatives of the borough of Penryn, at the laſt general election. Theſe druggets are made in France of the beſt of the Spaniſh or Turky wool, which is very well prepared, and ſcribbled; and afterwards ſpun into the fineſt yarn that this wool can be ſpun into. When placed in the loom, the chain and filling, or warp and woof, muſt be of one quality, and be driven pretty cloſe, as this cloth muſt not be beat up cloſer after it is wove; (theſe laſt particulars are what the generality of our manufacturers have erred in) a yard of this cloth, which is half ell wide, when finiſhed, ſhould not weigh above four ounces. The French ſell their druggets at Liſbon from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.* *per* yard. The French and Dutch ſuperfine cloths, which they under-ſell us with, at the Liſbon, Turky, and other ſouthern markets, are greatly inferior to the ſuperfine cloths which are made in England for laſting, but this is not the principal quality, which the inhabitants of thoſe hot countries deſire in their cloth. They deſire a cloth which is thin and light, and of an inferior price to our ſuperfine cloth, but at the ſame time it muſt be well dyed, and look pleaſing to the eye:

this is the kind of cloth which the French and Dutch ſupply them with, and which our manufacturers cannot be brought to manufacture, becauſe they imagine it greatly inferior to our own; but, if we expect thoſe people ſhould buy our goods, we muſt at leaſt ſupply them with ſuch goods as they want. Both thoſe branches of manufacture may be carried on, upon as good a footing in every reſpect, in the parts of the kingdom before mentioned, as they can in France, Holland, or elſewhere; and therefore if the the government would give a bounty for the exportation of thoſe cloths, for a few years, 'till proper manufactories were eſtabliſhed, by way of encouragement, and, at the ſame time, carry my next propoſal into execution, there is no doubt but that we could rival, if not under-ſell, the French and Dutch in all the ſouthern markets.

PROPOSAL II.

To give a bounty for the importation of the Barbary and Portugal wools, for the uſe of the before mentioned branches of manufacture.

I Am well informed of the many objections which will be raiſed againſt carrying this ſcheme into execution, and therefore am prepared to anſwer all ſuch objections, and to ſet forth the great utility of the undertaking. The firſt and principal objection which can be raiſed againſt this ſcheme, is, that, by our encouraging the importation of Barbary and Portugal wools, we ſhall greatly leſſen the price of Spaniſh wool in this country, (as the former are almoſt equal in goodneſs to the latter) and conſequently, by not giving the Spaniards their uſual price for their wool, we may oblige them to manufacture it themſelves, or to ſell it to the French at a very ſmall price, either of which muſt be very detrimental to our manufactures in general. But this objection can have no weight, when it is conſidered, that the Barbary

bary and Turky wools are to be imported only for the uſe of thoſe branches of manufacture before mentioned, and conſequently ſuch a meaſure will not at all interfere with the Spaniſh wooll trade, either in decreaſing the quantity imported, or in diminiſhing its price. The next material objection which can be brought againſt this ſcheme, is, that, if the Barbary and Portugal wools are imported freely into this kingdom, it muſt hurt the ſale and lower the price of our own wools, and as well thoſe of Ireland, which are imported into this country; give riſe to ſmugling, (as the Iriſh, and many of our own countrymen, in ſuch a caſe, would endeavour to ſmuggle their wool into France and elſewhere); and conſequently be rather a diſadvantage than an advantage to our woollen manufacture. All the wool of this kingdom, and the greateſt part of that of Ireland, is already worked up in this kingdom, and yet there are 20,000 poor people in the parts of the kingdom I have pointed out for thoſe new branches of manufacture which are unemployed, and almoſt in a ſtarving condition. Now, as the fine druggets and Dutch cloths cannot be made of Engliſh wool, and as

there is ſuch a number of poor people in the kingdom unemployed after all our own wool is manufactured, I cannot conceive how the importation of foreign wool, and the eſtabliſhing new branches of manufacture for the employing thoſe poor people, can at all interfere with our preſent eſtabliſhed manufactures. Seeing then that this ſcheme cannot be attended with any ill effects, I ſhall proceed to point out ſome of the good effects which muſt immediately follow its being carried into execution. The French at this time import a great quantity of the fine Barbary wool, from all parts of that coaſt, which they buy for one third of the price which they pay for the Spaniſh wool, and, in barter for the ſame, put off a great quantity of their manufactured goods; and before the preſent war with Portugal was delcared, the French carried off the greateſt part of the wool of that kingdom, which is equal to the Spaniſh wool, for near forty *per cent.* leſs than they paid for the wool of Biſcay. With thoſe wools the French make their fine druggets, and their fine thin cloths for the Turky and ſouthern markets; and by means of thoſe wools it is, that they can ſo much

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under ſell us in thoſe makets, and that their goods are held in greater eſteem than ours; and this is not owing to the price of labour, as many of our manufacturers, and others, have offered to aſſert. For if we attempt to make thoſe kinds of goods of Engliſh wool, thoſe made of Barbary and Portugal wools muſt be much finer and better from the quality of the wools, and if we make them of Spaniſh wool, the French will always conſiderably under-ſell us, as they purchaſe thoſe wools ſo much cheaper. Hence therefore the great national benefits which muſt immediately follow the carrying this ſcheme into execution will appear to every thinking perſon: we ſhall immediately carry our goods to the ſouthern markets upon as good footing as the French or Dutch, and at the ſame time employ many thouſands of our poor and diſtreſſed fellow ſubjects.

PROPOSAL III.

To give a ſmall bounty on the exportation of hats to the Italian, Spaniſh, and Turky markets.

BEFORE the commencement of this war, when France had the greateſt part of the furr trade of the American continent, owing to the ſelf-intereſtedneſs, or ſome worſe principle, of our Hudſon's-Bay-company, the French ſupplied all the ſouthern markets with hats, and, conſidering their fineneſs, ſold them upon a much better footing than our manufacturers could ſell the hats made in this country. But, as they are at preſent deprived of all the furr trade of that continent, the caſe muſt be altered. The greateſt part of the furrs of North America muſt be imported into this kingdom, and conſequently the French cannot bring their hats to the ſouthern markets upon ſo good a footing as we can. However, as they have already taſted the ſweets of this trade, they will endeavour, by purchaſing furrs in Ruſſia and elſewhere, and by ſelling for a moderate profit

profit for ſome time, to ſupport themſelves therein, 'till they have forced our merchants to bend their thoughts on ſome other ſcheme, and ſecured this valuable branch of commerce to themſelves for ever. This is the reaſon why I could wiſh that the government would make this branch of trade and manufacture one object of their attention, and give ſuch a bounty, for a few years, on this commodity, as ſhould eſtabliſh our merchants and traders therein, upon a foundation that is unmoveable.

PROPOSAL IV.

To give encouragement for the eſtabliſhing the cambric manufacture in this kingdom.

NO one acquiſition which we have made, during the preſent ſucceſsful war, will be more beneficial to this nation than the introducing the cambric manufacture hither, by means of the French priſoners, if proper encouragement is given for the eſtabliſhing the ſame. Before laws were made to prohibit the ſale of French cambrics in England, we paid near three hundred thouſand pounds ſterling

ling yearly for this commodity; and if this kingdom bought one third of all the cambrics which were exported from France, this manufacture muſt bring in between eight and nine hundred thouſand pounds ſterling *per annum* to that kingdom, beſides what they made for their own uſe. However, ſince laws have been made to prohibit the ſale of French cambrics in this country, and to lay a fine on the conſumer, the quantity thereof conſumed is very little inferior to what was conſumed before. But alas! they are ſent to Holland and Germany, and imported under a different name, and as well ſmuggled into all parts of the kingdom. If you go to a linen-draper, and aſk to buy ſome French cambric, he will tell you he has no ſuch thing; but, if you enquire for Sileſia lawn, Iriſh, or Scotch cambrics, he will tell you that he has what is exceeding good, but it comes out very dear, and will ſhew you all kinds of French cambric; and I am creditably informed that the cambric manufacture was never in greater perfection than it was at the beginning of the preſent war. Various attempts have been made, both in Scotland and in Ireland, to make cambrics equal to

thoſe

thoſe made in Picardy and French Flanders, but the beſt of the Scotch and Iriſh cambrics bear no compariſon to the meaneſt of thoſe made in France; and the reaſon thereof is obvious to any perſon who knows any thing of the manufacture: for, in the firſt place, the Iriſh and Scotch have not the proper method of hickeling, ſorting, and bleaching their flax. 2dly, their ſpinning is bad; the thread being in ſome parts very fine, in others very coarſe, which makes the cloth uneven. Moreover, when their thread is obſerved through a microſcope, it appears full of little ſpiculæ, which are the minute points of the flax diverging off from it; but on obſerving the Picardy thread, it appears as even, and as ſmooth as a hair. 3dly, Their weavers are unacquainted with the principles on which the French cambrics are made, and in fact on which every piece of good and laſting cloth ſhould be made, as they make the warp and woof of thread of different qualities, and conſequently ſuch cloth can never look ſo well nor be ſo laſting, as when the warp and woof are of one quality.——Since the beginning of this war, a company of gentlemen, aſſiſted by the French priſoners, have eſtab-

eſtabliſhed a combric manufacture in Suſſex; where they make cambrics upon the ſame principles that they are made in Picardy, and equally good with thoſe which are manufactured in that country. Hence, therefore, as the Scotch and Iriſh have endeavoured in vain to bring this profitable branch of manufacture to perfection; and, as it is at length introduced, in the greateſt perfection, into our own country, every method ſhould be taken to ſecure the ſame upon a permanent foundation, and to ſpread it as much as poſſible into thoſe parts of the kingdom where the poor are not employed in the woollen manufacture; as it will certainly be attended with very great advantages to this kingdom, and no leſs detriment to our enemies.

PROPOSAL V.

To aboliſh all our work-houſes, and to eſtabliſh a proper police for the regulation and ſupport of our poor.

THERE is no kingdom in the known world where there are more laws for the regulation of the poor, than there are in

in this country; neither is there any part where there are ſo many public charities, and funds of generoſity, as there are in this kingdom. But alas! though thoſe laws and inſtitutions are in themſelves juſt, humane, and equitable, yet there is no country where there are a greater number of poor, or where thoſe poor are more barbarouſly uſed; conſequently thoſe laws, which are ſo very important to every member of ſociety, muſt be in themſelves very defective, as they have not force to make themſelves be carried into execution, and may be eaſily eluded.——The poor tax of England, which is from 2 *s.* to 7 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound, in many parts, muſt exceed three millions *per annum*; and, if we add to this the immenſe ſums that are expended in public and private charities, it will clearly appear, that a ſum exceeding four millions ſterling is expended every year in this nation in ſupporting the poor. This ſum is ſufficient to maintain the tenth part of the inhabitants of the whole kingdom in a very decent manner; nevertheleſs our ſtreets ſwarm with poor, our highways with robbers, and our workhouſes are become ſcenes of miſery, tyranny, and fraud.—The abuſe of the diſtri-

diſtribution of the poor's revenue, and the inſufficency of the laws relating thereto, muſt appear too glaringly to every thinking perſon, and the evil conſequences thereof are ſo dreadful that they call aloud for a reformation. In other countries the poor are furniſhed with work, and chearfully become uſeful members of ſociety, by their induſtry; but in England, a tax of near four millions ſterling is levied on the induſtrious for the ſupport of idleneſs and extravagance. When our legiſlature firſt ordered the inſtitution of work-houſes, it was with an intent that the poor ſhould be decently maintained, and at the ſame time provided with ſuch branches of manufacture as they were capable of working on, to the end that what they earned by their labour might be applied towards their maintenance, and that the public might be eaſed in the tax which was raiſed for their ſupport. But this wiſe and equitable law has been moſt infamouſly abuſed; the public, ſince this inſtitution, has been more heavily taxed; the poor, inſtead of being furniſhed with work, have been farmed out to villains, who uſe them in a moſt barbarous and inhuman manner; many thouſands of

poor

poor children, who, with a little care, might be bred up, and become uſeful members of the community, have been ſuffered to periſh through careleſſneſs, inhumanity, and I might have added barbarity; and, as the hard-hearted pariſh officers are deaf to their diſtreſsful cries, thoſe work-houſes are become odious to the poor in general, and, rather than they will be thus inhumanly treated, will endure the greateſt poverty and diſtreſs in the ſtreets. Hence it is that ſo many diſtreſſed objects preſent themſelves to our view in every corner and ſtreet of our towns.—As theſe are undeniable facts, I make no doubt but every humane man, who has the good of the community at heart, will readily vote for the repealing of this law, and deſtroying thoſe iniquitous practices which have been the conſequence thereof.—But there is another reaſon, and a very political one too, which muſt weigh much againſt the continuation of this inſtitution with every man, who conſiders how much the lower claſſes of people, and even the poor, of this kingdom are actuated by the ſpirit of liberty and independancy, and how eaſily they may be led by gentle uſage, and little

little emoluments, to induſtry, and a compliable behaviour; and, on the other hand, how ſtubborn and untractable, when they are forced into any meaſure, and uſed in an arbitrary and tyrannical manner.——As the laws of this country, relative to the poor, ſeem to be intrinſically defective, and are, in many reſpects, contrary to our political intereſt, it behoves every good member of ſociety to conſider of ſome other method for providing for the poor, whereby, as fellow-creatures, they may be treated with more humanity, and at the ſame time be leſs troubleſome to the public: my thoughts on this matter I ſhall candidly ſet forth in the following lines.

Work-houſes, as I have already obſerved, though calculated to anſwer a good end, have been moſt infamouſly abuſed, and I think I may venture to ſay that no method, where the poor are compelled to work, and at the ſame time uſed ill, will anſwer the end propoſed; therefore I would, in the firſt place, recommend that the law made for their inſtitution be repealed, and that they be totally aboliſhed.

2dly, That each pariſh do provide almshouſes for their poor to work in, where

they may work freely, and employ the ſum of money allowed for their ſubſiſtance in what kind of proviſions they think proper.

3dly, That pariſh officers take care to provide their poor with ſuch work as they are capable of doing: it would be proper for four or five pariſhes to join and introduce a branch of the woollen, or ſome other, manufacture among their poor.

4thly, Private poor, whoſe diſtreſſes may be great, though they are aſhamed of being expoſed in alms-houſes, ſhould be furniſhed with ſuch work as they are capable of doing at their own habitations, provided that they can maintain themſelves by their induſtry; otherwiſe every perſon, applying to the pariſh for charity, ſhould be properly lodged in the alms-houſes; not excepting ſuch as are aſhamed of begging, becauſe there ought not to be any ſuch poor in a country where it is no ſhame for any perſon to work: ſuch as are ſick, or incapable of working, ſhould be lodged in apartments to themſelves, and be humanely taken care of.

5thly, That ſuch poor perſons as have children, ſhall have the liberty of breeding up their children in induſtry under their own

eye, if they deſire it, and are thought capable of ſo doing; but, if the contrary, the care of thoſe poor children, during the firſt years of life, and of breeding them up to induſtry, ſhould be adminiſtred in apartments ſet apart for that purpoſe; and not be left to pariſh nurſes, by whoſe barbarity, avarice, and inhumanity, many thouſands of poor infants are murdered yearly, to the very great loſs of the nation in general; but, though I am ſorry to ſay it, many of our hard-hearted pariſh officers think that it is a great ſaving to their reſpective pariſhes, by getting rid of the expence of their maintenance.

6thly, That all vagrants and ſturdy beggars, who ſhall refuſe to enter in alms-houſes, and work for their living, in ſuch manner as they are capable, ſhall be immediately committed to bridewell, and be kept to conſtant and hard labour, 'till they ſhall think proper to comply with the lenient terms before mentioned.

7thly, To give ſmall pecuniary premiums annually to ſuch poor perſons who ſhall produce the beſt piece of work in their reſpective profeſſions; and to diſtinguiſh thoſe who are remarkably induſtrious by more coſtly

garments

garments than the poor are generally cloth-ed in.

8thly, To give ſmall pecuniary premiums annually to ſuch poor parents as have the greateſt number of children at work under their inſpection. Thoſe premiums to be paid out of the fund which is raiſed for the ſupport of the poor, and ſhall be determined by twelve of the principal inhabitants of the pariſh to which they belong.

9thly, That ſuch poor as are ill uſed ſhall have liberty to appeal *gratis* to a bench of juſtices of the peace, who ſhall ſit every month for that purpoſe; and, if they refuſe to hear their complaints, and to redreſs them, they ſhall be liable to a heavy fine, to be recovered by a common informer, with double coſts of ſuit: a bench of juſtices to be eſtabliſhed in every hundred for theſe purpoſes.

10thly, Every pariſh officer ſhall deliver in an account annually, to the juſtices of the hundred, of the number of poor in his pariſh, the number of thoſe that are at work, the ſum total of the poor's tax, the neat produce of the work done by thoſe poor, and of the branch of manufacture which they are work-

ing on; which account muſt be atteſted by the miniſter, and twelve of the principal inhabitants of his pariſh; and ſuch pariſh officer who ſhall have the greater number of poor at work, in proportion to the number of thoſe who receive alms, and ſhall at the ſame time produce the moſt finiſhed piece of manufacture worked by his poor, ſhall be intitled to a gold medal, as a reward for his induſtry and care: this ſhall be determined by the juſtices aforeſaid; and every pariſh in the hundred ſhall contribute towards the ſame, in proportion to the ſum of their poor's tax.

11thly, Thoſe accounts ſhall be ſummed up and ſtated properly by the juſtices of each hundred, and be by them laid before the knights who repreſent the county in parliament, who ſhall report them to a committee of that Great Aſſembly: by this means the poor's tax may be ſettled and paſſed by the great committee of the nation, as the accounts of each county, hundred, and pariſh, will ſerve for a check upon one another.

12thly, All vagrants and ſturdy beggars ſhall be immediately confined, by the officers of the pariſh wherein they are found begging, and ſent to the pariſh to which they belong; and

and if ſuch pariſh officers ſhall refuſe to confine them immediately, and ſend them to their own pariſh; or the officers of their own pariſh refuſe to receive them, and pay the expence of bringing them home, either of them ſhall be liable to a heavy fine; to be recovered by a common informer, with tribble coſts of ſuit.

From ſuch a form of adminiſtration as this, the wants and miſeries of the poor and needy would be juſtly and humanely relieved; the number of our poor would conſiderably diminiſh, as many of our private poor would rather maintain themſelves by their own labour, than be expoſed in common almshouſes; the poor's tax would diminiſh conſiderably, as the produce of their labour would, in a few years, be nearly ſufficient for their maintenance; our manufactures would receive an additional number of hands, and conſequently the price of labour muſt proportionably diminiſh; and the public would be delivered from vagrants and ſturdy beggars, which, in fact, are become a nuiſance to ſociety.

But perhaps it may be obſerved, that too much lenity to an almoſt lawleſs rabble would

tend to increaſe the evil than remedy it; and that, as the greateſt number of our poor became ſo through idleneſs and extravagance, 'tis not at all probable that leſs ſeverity than is uſed at preſent will reform them. People, who are unacquainted with the hardſhips and cruelties which the poor, in the generality of our work-houſes, undergo, and who have never heard the cries of the diſtreſſed orphans, (which call aloud to heaven for vengeance on their inhuman and tyrannical maſters and miſtreſſes) may talk this language; but I am very well aſſured that eight parts in ten of the poor of this kingdom would joyfully come into the meaſures before mentioned, and thoſe who would not, would meet with a puniſhment adequate to their ſtubbornneſs and idleneſs; and it is a piece of cruelty to make the innocent ſuffer for the guilty.

PRO-

PROPOSAL VI.

To eſtabliſh a police for the diſcouraging of idleneſs, drunknenneſs, and debauchery, among our manufacturing poor, journeymen, and day labourers; and to introduce a juſt ſubordination among the lower claſſes of people.

THE complaints of the public againſt the idleneſs and inſolent behaviour of our journyemen manufacturers and day-labourers are become ſo notorious, that they call aloud for a reformation, and demand the ſerious attention of the legiſlature. Combinations of journeymen and day-labourers to extort exorbitant wages, for ſupporting themſelves in drunkenenneſs and debauchery is what is practiſed in almoſt every part of the kingdom; ſo that, at the years end they are poorer, rather than richer, for the exorbitant price of their labour.

The ingenious Doctor Tucker obſerves, that among the poor woollen manufacturers, when corn and proviſions are at an extravagant price, there is great diligence and

induſtry, and the maſters have their work beſt and cheapeſt done; but, when proviſions are at an eaſy price, the manufacturers are idle and inſolent, raiſe moſt exorbitantly the price of their labour when their maſters have a great demand for goods and dare not turn them off, and at the ſame time do their work very ill; and therefore he ſeems to infer, that high taxes and duties on the neceſſaries of life are not the principal means of increaſing the price of labour in this kingdom.

This gentleman's obſervation is very juſt in this particular; however, I don't think it would be prudent to lay additional taxes on the neceſſaries of life to decreaſe the price of labour. When the legiſlature thought proper to lay the additional tax of 3*s. per* barrel on beer, which is one farthing a pot, the brewers and victuallers raiſed the price of beer one half-penny *per* pot, ſo that they accumulated into their own pockets a ſum equal to what the legiſlature raiſed by this tax for the ſervice of the government, and at the ſame time made their beer much inferior in quality to what they had done before. The journeymen and day-labourers, who are the chief conſumers of beer, imagining that by this

this means they were ill-uſed and oppreſſed, raiſed the price of their labour 3 *d. per* day; indeed the journeymen taylors raiſed the price of their wages 6 *d. per* day. Hence therefore the public, by means of this ſmall tax being laid on one of the neceſſaries of life, pays above eight times the ſum, for the ſupport of idleneſs and extravagance, that the government receives for the ſupport of the ſtate. This muſt be a melancholy conſideration to every perſon who conſiders the diſtreſſed ſituation of this kingdom at preſent: and every humane and thinking man will endeavour to diſcover ſome expedient to correct thoſe abuſes, which are ſo detrimental to our well being, and at the ſame time not involve the innocent as well as the guilty in the ſame puniſhment. I am apprehenſive that, if ſuch a method as the following was carried into execution, it would in a great meaſure, if not totally, correct thoſe abuſes, and introduce a proper ſubordination among the lower claſſes of people.

1ſt, That a proper power be given, by the legiſlature, to twelve of the principal gentlemen of every hundred in this kingdom, to form a court, and to ſit every ſix weeks, for regulating the price of labour among our journey-

journeymen manufacturers, and day-labourers, in proportion to the price of proviſions and other neceſſaries of life in the country where they are at labour; and as well to fit for the diſpatch of ſuch other buſineſs as ſhall be hereafter mentioned under this head. The members of this court ſhall be ſworn in every year for this purpoſe; but no maſter-manufacturer, though ever ſo wealthy, ſhall be admitted to be a member, as it is ſuppoſed that his intereſt is too nearly concerned to be impartial.

2dly, That the reſolutions of this court, reſpecting the price of labour, be ſent to every pariſh within the hundred, in writing, or otherwiſe, and be publickly declared in the church-yard, market-place, or ſome other place of general reſort.

3dly, That ſuch journeymen, day-labourers, or others, who ſhall refuſe to work the uſual hours, for the price hereby ſtipulated, ſhall immediately, by the peace officers of the pariſh, be carried before a neighbouring juſtice of the peace, and be by him committed to bridewell, there to be kept to hard labour 'till they ſhall think proper to obey the laws of their country; and if any ſuch

juſtice

juſtice of the peace, or peace officer, ſhall refuſe to do their duty on this occaſion, they ſhall be ſubject to a heavy fine, to be recovered by a common informer.

3dly, That all maſter-manufacturers, artificers, and perſons who employ day-labourers of any kind, do pay into this court full one penny a day out of the wages of all ſuch manufacturers, artificers, and day-labourers, as a fund for the purpoſes to be hereafter mentioned; and any maſter who ſhall fraudulently detain any part of ſuch wages, appointed to be paid into this court, ſhall be puniſhed by a heavy fine.

4thly, That a ſmall pecuniary premium be given annually, by this court, for the beſt piece of goods that ſhall be manufactured in the hundred; a ſecond premium for the ſecond beſt; and a third for the third beſt. Theſe premiums ſhall be determined by the court, upon receiving certificates from the maſter, and the miniſter of the pariſh, that the journeyman claimant, who produces the piece of goods, was really the perſon who manufactured it.

5thly, That every journeyman manufacturer, artificer, and day-labourer, who ſhall

produce

produce a certificate, ſigned by the miniſter, churchwardens, and overſeers of the poor, of the pariſh to which he belongs, of his honeſty and induſtry, ſhall be intitled to twenty ſhillings *per annum*, as a reward for the ſame.

6thly, That any poor manufacturer, artificer, or day-labourer, whoſe honeſty and induſtry has been certified as aforeſaid, who has a large family to ſupport; who, by ſickneſs or accident, is rendered incapable of working; or who is any otherwiſe diſtreſſed, the fact being proved to the ſatisfaction of the court, ſhall be entitled to ſuch a bounty as the court ſhall judge adequate to his diſtreſs.

7thly, This court ſhould likewiſe have a power to limit the number of ale-houſes in each hundred, and to take off the licences of ſuch who have a bad character, and who keep houſes to encourage vice and immorality. They ſhould likewiſe have a power to confine ſuch women as are ſuſpected to have a bad character, except they can clear themſelves by a certificate from the miniſter and churchwardens of the pariſh to which they belong, and as well as ſuch common people who cannot

not give a good account of themſelves by what means they are ſupported.

8thly, That this court ſhould have the power to levy a heavy fine, by diſtreſs of goods, or in default thereof to inflict ſevere corporal puniſhments, on all perſons who ſhall keep ſkittle-alleys, cockpits, ſtages for cudgel playing, and all ſuch places of reſort for the common people within the hundred; the court ſhould likewiſe be empowered to take off the licence of an ale-houſe, and to levy a heavy fine on the maſter thereof, where any journeymen or day-labourers ſhall be found drinking, rioting, or playing at cards or dice: all fines levied by this court ſhall belong to the informer, but all informations muſt be taken upon oath.

9thly, That any journeyman, or day-labourer, who ſhall be found drinking or rioting in any ale-houſe, ſhall be totally excluded from any bounty or reward from the court for one year at leaſt, from the time he ſhall ſo offend; however he ſhall be at liberty to ſend to ſuch ale-houſe for beer as often as he thinks proper, provided he drinks it with his wife and family, and does not get drunk.

10thly, That the miniſter and peace officers of every pariſh do make a report of the behaviour of the manufacturers and labourers in their pariſh, every half year, to this court, taking proper notice of the careful and induſtrious, as well as of notorious offenders.

11thly. Five members, or more of this court, will be ſufficient for common buſineſs; but, at a general meeting, which ſhould be every half year, nine members at leaſt ſhould be preſent.

It is preſumed that if a ſcheme of this kind was regularly carried into execution, it would have a very good effect, if not totally prevent thoſe flagrant abuſes, which have been ſo detrimental to our trade and manufactures. This is now become a ſerious affair, and requires that ſome method be immediately taken to check this growing evil; and if the foregoing plan ſhould be thought improper for the purpoſe, it is hoped that ſome more knowing gentleman will take the hint, and point out one which may be more effectually carried into execution.

PRO-

PROPOSAL VII.

To repeal the laws which prohibit the importation of Iriſh cattle and proviſions into this iſland, and to give all poſſible encouragement for the importation of the ſame.

THIS propoſal, I am perſuaded, will be thought a very extraordinary one by many ſelf-intereſted people, who, like merchants that have an excluſive charter to trade to any foreign country, and enrich themſelves by the loſſes of their fellow-ſubjects, imagine that the intereſt of the public ſhould always be ſubſervient to that of individuals.

Laws to prevent the importation of cattle and proviſions from Ireland into England muſt be very detrimental to this kingdom in ſeveral reſpects.

1ſt, It tends to give a monopoly to a few grazing countries, to impoſe upon the reſt of the people high prices for meat, and other common proviſions, whereby the labourer muſt live at a much dearer rate, and of courſe raiſe his wages, to the ruin of our manufactures in general.

2dly, Thoſe laws are highly detrimental to our foreign commerce; becauſe whatever increaſes the expence of victualling a ſhip muſt increaſe that ſhip's freight, and give an opportunity to the French and Dutch to victual their ſhips cheaper in Ireland than we can at home.

3dly, Thoſe laws have been a fatal ſtab to our commerce and manufactures in another reſpect, which people in general do not ſeem to regard. It is a well known fact, that neither France nor Holland do raiſe a ſufficient quantity of common proviſions to ſupply their own people, and therefore, beſides the immenſe quantities of fiſh which they catch, they are obliged to have recourſe to Ireland, and ſometimes to England; and if they were deprived of thoſe reſources, it would be impoſſible for them to victual their ſhips without enhancing the price of proviſions to a very great degree in their own country, and thereby raiſe the price of labour conſiderably.

4thly, Thoſe laws tend to diſcourage agriculture, and to increaſe the paſture ground in this kingdom, and conſequently to depopulate the country; therefore it muſt be highly de-

trimental to the ſtate: for, though the farmer, who has abundance of cattle, will receive greater profits from an eſtate, than him who cultivates the ſame by agriculture, yet this practice ſhould always be diſcouraged in this kingdom, eſpecially as our grain bears ſo good a price in foreign markets. Moreover, 'tis bad policy for a mother-country to make laws to diſcourage agriculture, and encourage paſturage, eſpecially when her chief colony is ſupported by it; for if the gentlemen of Ireland were to encourage agriculture, and thoſe of England paſturage, the former would ſoon out-number the latter in inhabitants, and become the mother-country.

As theſe are well-known facts, every thinking perſon muſt plainly ſee how deſtructive this meaſure muſt be to the trade and manufactures of this kingdom. The ſmaller the conſumption of any commodity is, the ſmaller will be the demand for it, and a ſmall demand makes a ſmall price; hence therefore when England prohibits the importation of Iriſh proviſions, the French and Dutch are ſure that they muſt have them at an inferior price. Which muſt give infinite pleaſure to a Frenchman or Hollander, when he conſiders that,

in his country, the labouring poor, by getting proviſions from any country, where they may be had the cheapeſt, are enabled to work at leſs wages than the Engliſh can live on, and, by ſo doing, deprive them of their trade, their money, and manufactures.

Again, as France is the chief market for Iriſh proviſions, when their importation into England is prohibited, and as all merchants are apt to buy foreign commodities where they ſell thoſe of their own country, the Iriſh merchants are induced to import from France, in barter for their proviſions, great quantities of wines, brandies, teas, and many other commodities ſimilar to thoſe they would receive from England, if the Engliſh were to take off their proviſions.

The chief reaſon that was given for the paſſing of thoſe laws, was, that they tended to keep up, or raiſe, the value of our land:—it being aſſerted, that if domeſtic conſumption was not encouraged, our common neceſſaries of life would be had at ſo low a price, that the farmer would not be able to pay his rent. But alas! the people who reaſon in this manner muſt be totally unacquainted with domeſtic policy; for enhancing

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the price of proviſions, and encouraging domeſtic conſumption, is ſo far from being beneficial to the landed intereſt, that it is highly detrimental to it; becauſe the leſs of any commodity that is conſumed within, the greater quantity will be left to export, and the cheaper that it is at home, the more of it will be exported, and it is exportation only that muſt increaſe the landed intereſt.

All kinds of home proviſions, in a free trade, will find their natural value; for, though that may fluctuate, according to the plenty or ſcarcity of the ſeaſons, yet, for home conſumption, home proviſions muſt have great advantages over the foreign, as being always at hand, and being free from freight, inſurance, commiſſion, and other accidental charges, which on the produce of lands, being all bulky commodities, muſt, in the general, ariſe to 20 *per cent.* and a greater advantage cannot be given without prejudice; for this makes a very great difference in the price of neceſſaries, between the nation ſelling and the nation buying, and is a great difficulty on the latter; but, at the ſame time, it is a ſufficient ſecurity to the land-holders that foreigners can never import more neceſ-

ſaries than is abſolutely required; and if ſuch land-holders ſhould endeavour, merely for an imaginary profit, to raiſe or keep up the value of their lands, by oppreſſions on the people, which cramp the commerce of the nation, it muſt in the end prove their ruin; for when trade declines, the poor manufacturers muſt either come upon the pariſh, or fly for buſineſs to other trading nations. In the firſt caſe they become a heavy tax on the land-holders, and inſtead of purchaſing the produce of the land, muſt have it given them; and, in the latter caſe, when the conſumers are gone the land muſt be worth very little.

Seeing then that the prohibition of Iriſh proviſions has been very detrimental to the trade and manufactures, and conſequently to the landed intereſt of England, and the contrary to thoſe of France and Holland, it is a matter of the greateſt conſequence to this kingdom to put a ſtop to this growing evil, which otherwiſe may be attended with fatal conſequences; and to anſwer this purpoſe the following hints are, with great ſubmiſſion, offered to the public, to be improved upon.

1ſt, That a law be paſſed to prohibit the exportation of Iriſh proviſions to any other country but Great Britain, or her Weſt India iſlands.

2dly, That the laws at preſent ſubſiſting for prohibiting the importation of Iriſh proviſions into this kingdom be repealed, and that every port in the kingdom be laid open for the reception of the ſame.

3dly, That a bounty be given for the exportation of ſuch Iriſh proviſions as ſhall be imported into Great Britain, and as well for the exportation of our own country proviſions, when they are under a certain price.

By this method the following good ends would moſt certainly be anſwered, and I cannot ſee any inconveniencies that would ariſe therefrom.

1ſt, That, as the Iriſh proviſions always found a market in England, it would make that people take from us many of the luxuries, ornaments, and delicacies of living, which they at preſent import from France and Holland.

2dly, It would prevent thoſe illegal combinations and monopolies, which frequently raiſe the price of proviſions to an extravagant

rate, to the very great detriment of the poor, and of the manufacturers in general; and, at the ſame time, keep the Engliſh proviſions to ſuch a price as is equitable between the farmer and the conſumer.

3dly, By our monopolizing the Iriſh proviſions, we ſhould raiſe the price thereof conſiderably in France and Holland, to the very great detriment of their marine, and no leſs diſadvantage of their manufacturers, as their labouring poor would be obliged to raiſe their wages; and we ſhould employ an additional number of ſhips and ſeamen, in importing thoſe proviſions from Ireland to England, and exporting the ſame from England to foreign markets.

4thly, As many of our merchant ſhips, going on foreign voyages, are obliged to go to Ireland to victual, and conſequently loſe a great deal of time, it muſt likewiſe be very beneficial to our foreign commerce. And,

5thly, It will tend to enrich the Iriſh land-holders, at the expence of the French, Dutch, and other foreigners; and by enriching Ireland, we muſt enrich ourſelves, as the greateſt part of the Iriſh land-holders ſpend their

fortunes

fortunes in England; hence therefore whatever wealth Ireland, by its produce, draws from other countries, the greateſt part of it muſt center in England.

PROPOSAL VIII.

To give a ſmall bounty on the importation of Iriſh wool into England.

THE wool of Ireland has been no leſs inſtrumental in promoting the woollen manufactures of France and Holland, than the proviſions of that country have been in feeding their manufacturers; and our political guides, by ſome ſtrange infatuation, have been, for almoſt this century paſt, endeavouring, by this means, to eſtabliſh the woollen manufactures in France and Holland, at the expence of thoſe of their own country. When mankind began to be led away with the notion that the value of our lands would be leſſened by the improvement of Ireland, they made a law to prohibit the importation of Iriſh cattle and proviſions into this country: hereby thoſe people were neceſſitated to find out ſome other employment for their land, and

thereupon turned their thoughts on the breeding of ſheep, in a much more extenſive manner than they had ever done before, and raiſed a growth of wool; but no ſooner was this effected, than a prohibition enſued on our part, to export this wool, and the manufactures made of it. This prohibition was very detrimental to the Engliſh nation, and has contributed much to eſtabliſh the woollen manufacture in France.

The Iriſh, ſeeing that they were denied manufacturing their own wool, and that they could find no market for the ſame in England, which they thought a very great and unanſwerable oppreſſion, not only opened a market with France for this commodity, where they ſold it at a very low price, but what they could not ſell to that nation they manufactured themſelves into camblets, and exported the ſame clandeſtinely to the Portugal markets. Hereupon France worked this wool into fabrics, *façon d'Angleterre*, and underſold us in all the foreign markets, which has not a little contributed to the ruin of the woollen trade of England in many foreign parts, and to the eſtabliſhing that of France; for, unleſs we take off the wool of Ireland, and manufacture

facture it ourſelves, or ſuffer the Iriſh to export woollen goods, the French will moſt certainly have this commodity. Hence, therefore, it will clearly appear, that thoſe prohibitions have not only hurt the Iriſh, and injured ourſelves, but enriched our enemies.

Our politicians ſoon perceived the ill effects of their policy, and ſuffered the Iriſh wool, yarn, &c. to be imported into ſome particular parts of this kingdom; but this not anſwering the end, this wool, yarn, &c. was ſuffered to be imported into any part of this kingdom without the leaſt reſtraint.

France having experienced the ſweets of this clandeſtine traffic; and, by means of her fabrics made of Iriſh wool, underſold the Engliſh in moſt of the foreign markets, would not eaſily give up this branch of trade, but gave a conſiderable advanced price for the Iriſh wool, (which, in fact, ſhe could very well afford to do, as ſhe paid for it all with her own produce, and had a large ballance of trade with the Iriſh in her favour) and by that means carried on a clandeſtine trade, and had the greateſt part of the wool in the ſouthern counties of that kingdom, even to the beginning of the preſent war.

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The learned Dr. Tucker informs us that, ſoon after the laſt peace was concluded, the wool ſmugglers in the weſt of Ireland cleared upwards of 50 *per cent.* profits, by the wool which they ſold to the French. Therefore as long as ſuch great profits can be got by this contrabrand trade, our laws and reſtrictions will anſwer no purpoſe; and except we give a bounty on the importation of Iriſh wool into this kingdom, particularly of long combing wool to make ſtuffs, which the French chiefly want, or ſuffer the Iriſh to manufacture it themſelves for exportation, France will moſt certainly have the greateſt part of it, and rival, if not under-ſell us in all the foreign markets.

PROPOSAL IX.

To lay a heavy tax on bachelors, and to paſs a law for the further encouragement of matrimony, and the diſcouragement of celibacy.

I Need not proceed, by dint of argument, to ſhew mankind the manifold evils which ariſe from the modiſh practice of men's

men's living bachelors, becauſe every thinking perſon will readily allow that it is one of the principal cauſes of all the lewdneſs, debauchery, and immorality of the preſent age, but ſhall proceed to ſhew how detrimental it is to the commercial intereſt of the nation in general, and to our manufactures in particular.

It is a maxim univerſally received, that the ſtrength and riches of a nation muſt be eſtimated by the number of its inhabitants who are employed in agriculture and manufacture. Now nothing tends to decreaſe the public ſtock of inhabitants, and conſequently the ſtrength and riches of a nation, ſo much as the practice of mens living bachelors, and gratifying their deſires with lewd women and common proſtitutes; as I may venture to ſay, that of 300,000 bachelors, from 20 years old and upwards, and 100,000 ſuch common women, from 15 years old to 50, which are the numbers ſuppoſed to be in this kingdom, we have not 500 children annually, which are bred up to become uſeful members of ſociety. However ſhocking this may appear to ſome people, I believe nobody will diſpute the

the fact, and the ill conſequences thereof are daily preſenting themſelves to our view.

It muſt be aſtoniſhing to every thinking perſon, who conſiders that the number of inhabitants in this fertile and healthy kingdom ſhould be conſiderably decreaſed within theſe 30 years laſt paſt; but the moſt exact calculations place this matter beyond all doubt; and the whole number of white inhabitants in our colonies is not equal to the decreaſe. By this means our foreign commerce hath been crampt, and our manufacturers have been frequently at a loſs for hands to carry on their manufactures; particularly during the laſt years of this war, when, although there were not 200,000 men drained off from the whole iſland, our manufactures in many parts thereof were at a ſtand for want of hands, and thoſe labouring manufacturers who remained raiſed the price of their labour to ſuch a degree as hath proved very detrimental to our trade in general. Moreover, according to the preſent inſtitution, the married men have great injuſtice done them; for they, who are chiefly houſe-keepers, pay the King's taxes, and the duties on

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the neceſſaries of life, in proportion to the number of their families; whereas, the bachelors, who have ſeldom any ſettled habitation, are exempt from the former, and of the latter pay only for themſelves; whereby all thoſe honeſt induſtrious perſons, who are moſt beneficial to the public, are loaded with taxes, in proportion as they are beneficial, whilſt others who, by their actions, are the troublers of ſociety, are exempted therefrom.

Upon the whole, therefore, it muſt be allowed that this practice of men's living bachelors has been highly injurious to the ſtate, and as well introduced unparalleled ſcenes of lewdneſs and debauchery in many parts of this kingdom; and I know of no object more worthy the attention of the legiſlature than the laying a heavy tax upon thoſe offenders, and the diſcouraging celibacy among the middle and lower claſſes of people, by perſonal duties.

My propoſal is this; That a general capitation tax be laid on all bachelors, of whatſoever degree, above 24 years of age; to be proportioned in the following manner, *viz.*

1ſt, That all peers, ſons of peers, and private gentlemen, whoſe income does exceed 2000 *l.*

2000 *l. per annum*, and who are bachelors above the age before mentioned, ſhall pay 100 *l. per annum.*

2dly, That all private gentlemen, merchants, and capital tradeſmen, whoſe income ſhall exceed 800 *l. per annum*, under the like circumſtances, ſhall pay 50 *l. per annum.*

3dly, That all counſellors, attornies, practitioners of phyſic, clergymen, and tradeſmen in what branch of buſineſs ſoever, whoſe income ſhall exceed 300 *l. per annum*, under the like circumſtances, ſhall pay 20 *l. per annum.*

4thly, That perſons of all denominations, who have had a genteel education, and are on the footing with gentlemen, ſhop-keepers, maſter mechanics and artificers, and thoſe who employ journeymen in any branch of buſineſs whatſoever, under the circumſtances aforeſaid, ſhall pay 5 *l. per annum.*

5thly, That all journeymen manufacturers, and artificers, of whatſoever denomination, and day-labourers, (common ſoldiers and ſailors excepted) offending as aforeſaid, ſhall pay 12*s. per annum.*

This I think would be a very juſt and equitable law, which would be attended with innume-

numerable good conſequences, both as to the commerce of the nation, and the good and happineſs of the individuals. Moreover, I would propoſe that all married men ſhould be exempted from ſerving the king, as common ſoldiers or ſailors, and as well from ſerving in the militia; and that all bachelors above 20 years of age, of what ſtation of life ſoever (privileged perſons excepted) ſhall be liable to ſerve in the militia, or to ſerve his majeſty by land or ſea, except they provide others to ſerve in their room. This is the method that is practiſed in France for raiſing of men for the ſervice of the government, and a moſt excellent regulation it is, as it tends to increaſe induſtry, to promote matrimony, and to raiſe up a ſufficient number of manufacturers to keep down the price of labour among the lower claſſes of people in that kingdom.

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SECTION IV.

Containing a Plan for the improving the Agriculture of this Kingdom.

PROPOSAL I.

To encourage our farmers to change their grain for ſowing, every ſeven years at leaſt.

THE improving our fertile lands by agriculture, is one of the principal objects which our land-holders and farmers ſhould have in view, eſpecially as the produce thereof bears ſo good a price in foreign markets: no part of this object ſhould be more attentively conſidered, than the improving the culture of our Wheat, Barley, and Oats, as the two former are not only univerſally uſed among ourſelves, but ſome of our principal commodities for foreign markets, and the latter is always ſure to find a market both at home and abroad.

It was with the greateſt pleaſure that I beheld many of our ſpeculative gentlemen,

and principal farmers, ſome years ſince, engaged in this kind of ſtudy, and am ſorry to find that ſo few advantages have ariſen therefrom; but this I attribute to their having adopted wrong notions, and to their having practiſed from a theory, which has been of late years moſt induſtriouſly ſpread abroad in this and a neighbouring country, and which is in itſelf as contrary to rational practice, as it is to the principles of natural philoſophy. The new method of huſbandry ſet on foot by Mr. Tull, propagated by Monſ. du Hamel, and others, and lately adopted by many of our ſpeculative country gentlemen, is very prejudicial to the culture of every kind of grain which does not require ſome degree of banking, as does peas, beans, &c.

Mr. Tull has informed us, and Monſ. du Hamel has corroborated his information, that land, which is ploughed and drilled in the new way, produces near the ſame quantity of grain at a crop that the ſame land does manured in the old way, and ſowed at broadcaſt; and, by their aſſerting poſitively this fact, mankind have been led away from principles that are rational, in ſearch of thoſe which are chimerical. From all the experi-

ments that I have ſeen made to prove this matter, *i. e.* by cultivating one part of a field in the old way, and another part in the new way, and allowing the ſame kind and quantity of manure to each part, (which in my opinion was a very fair experiment) the land ſown in the old way produced from five to twelve buſhels upon an acre more than the land which was drilled; and if the ſeaſon proved very dry the difference was much greater. This kind of experiment I have ſeen tried upon moſt kinds of ſoil in all the ſouthern parts of this kingdom, and, therefore, I muſt beg leave to differ from thoſe ingenious authors in this particular.

The roots of wheat, barley, oats, and flax, are very ſmall in proportion to their reſpective ſtems; and, as they ſeldom run above three inches deep, and four inches wide, in the earth, they cannot ſuck the juices of the earth at ſo great a diſtance as nine, twelve, and ſometimes fourteen inches, the ſpace between each drill, and conſequently this ſpace, having no maſter grain ſown in it, will vegetate ſuch ſeeds and roots of plants as happen to lie dormant in the earth, which will ſuck the vegetating juices thereof in almoſt the ſame degree

gree as the kinds of grain before mentioned. This is a fact known to every judicious farmer, and therefore he aims to have the ſurface of the ground covered with his corn, or flax, which will in a great meaſure ſtop the growth of other vegetables, before the ſeaſon advances for favouring the ſame; and this can never be done by Mr. Tull's method of agriculture.

Our farmers in general, in the beginning of the preſent century, ran into a very great error, by ſowing their land with a greater quantity of grain than it was capable of vegetating, one root preventing the growth of another; but, of late years, they have ſeen their error, and very juſtly calculated the quantity of their grain in proportion to the goodneſs of their land.

The changing the grain for ſowing, than which nothing can be more conducive to a good crop, ſeems to be totally neglected among our farmers and land-holders, except in the article of flax; when it is well known that all kinds of grain will conſiderably degenerate when ſown, for ſeveral years ſucceſſively, in the ſame kind of ſoil; and, if the produce of a very fertile ſoil is ſown in a barren ſoil,

produce will be decreaſed near one eighth part, and the contrary when the produce of a barren ſoil is ſown in a fertile ſoil. Grain that was raiſed in the north of England, and afterwards ſown in Cornwall and Devon, has been found to produce a much larger crop, and as well finer grain, than the corn of theſe countries ſown in the ſame kind of ſoil for ſucceſſive years. Linſeed raiſed in Ruſſia and Courland, and ſown in England, produces near one third part more flax than the linſeed which grows in this kingdom; and the reaſon thereof is obvious; for every kind of grain which grows in a cold climate will flouriſh much more abundantly, when ſown in a ſoil of equal fertility, in a warmer climate; and every kind of grain which is produced in a warm climate will greatly degenerate when ſown in a cold climate.

I had once an opportunity of making an experiment of this kind in the weſt of England, with a ſmall quantity of wheat that was brought over from Nova Scotia, and the produce was ſomething above 60 buſhels upon an acre; whereas, ſome of our own country grain, ſown in the ſame field, and manured with the ſame kind of manure, produced but

51 buſhels; beſides, the grain of the former was much larger and finer than the grain of the latter. Hence therefore it will evidently appear, that nothing will more contribute to the improvement of our agriculture than the ſowing our fields with ſeed, which was raiſed in a colder climate than our own, every ſeventh year at fartheſt; and, as our grain will always find a good market in Spain and Italy, it can be no additional expence to our farmers, but muſt be a certain, and a conſiderable profit. I would recommend the importation of wheat, barley, and oats from Canada, Nova Scotia, the northern parts of New-England, (and as a great number of ſhips are ſent hither from thoſe parts for ſale, loaded only with lumber, it might be ſo ordered that the expence of the freight ſhould be very trifling) or from Ruſſia, Courland, or the northern parts of Germany; but if this propoſal, however advantageous, ſhould be rejected, I would adviſe our farmers in the ſouthern parts of this kingdom, to have a ſupply of corn, for the ſowing their land, every ſeven years at leaſt, from Cumberland, Northumberland, or Durham, and I am well aſſured that even purſuing this part of the

propoſal will contribute greatly to increaſe the produce of our land.

PROPOSAL II.

To manure our cold barren grounds, particularly where the ſoil is a ſtiff clay, chalk, or a tenaceous loam, with particular compoſts inſtead of the common manures.

THERE are a great many, and very large, tracts of land, in the interior parts of this kingdom, which have never been cultivated within the memory of man, and which do not perhaps yield the proprietors three ſhillings *per* acre; whereas, if thoſe tracts of land were properly cultivated, I make no doubt but they would produce the proprietors twenty ſhillings *per* acre, and at the ſame time pay the farmers very well for their trouble.

I obſerve that the ſoil in thoſe lands is either a ſtiff yellow clay, a cold tenacious loam, or a mixture of chalk and loam; and when the farmers take it into their heads to cultivate any ſmall parts of thoſe lands, they generally manure them with common ſtable or ſheep's dung, peat-aſhes, or fine chalk, which they mix with the earth in great maſſes; but common

reaſon, as well as the produce of their labour, convinces us that this method of culture is not proper for thoſe kinds of ſoil; and, except ſome better method of manuring is diſcovered, the nation muſt ſuffer an unſpeakable loſs through the ignorance of the generality of the farmers.

I have been at the making of a great number of experiments on thoſe kinds of ſoils, which have fully anſwered my expectation; and, as they are reaſonable in themſelves, and may be carried into execution for a leſs expence than what our farmers are at in manuring thoſe lands at preſent, I ſhall here ſet them forth for the benefit of the public.

Where the ſoil is a ſtiff yellow clay, to manure it in the common way anſwers no end, but that of putting the farmer to an unneceſſary expence. This kind of ſoil, when it has lain uncultivated for a number of years, is a marl of itſelf, and only requires to be divided and quickened. If this kind of land happens to be near the ſea ſhore, no kind of manure anſwers thoſe purpoſes ſo well as ſea-ſand, which ſhould be taken up from the beach over which the tide ebbs and flows, and mixed immediately with the ſoil before the

ſun and air can exhale its ſaline moiſture; but if this land ſhould lie at ſome diſtance from the ſea, thoſe purpoſes may be anſwered equally as well, or better, by mixing a proper quantity of common ſmall gravel, which has been moiſtened with a ſolution of common bay-ſalt, with the ſoil; which muſt be ſo proportioned that one buſhel and half of bay-ſalt may be mixed with the gravel that is laid on an acre; but the gravel muſt not be moiſtened 'till it is ready to be laid on the ground, and ſhould be covered as ſoon as poſſible.

If the ſoil is a cold black tenaceous loam, half the quantity of gravel will be ſufficient, which ſhould be moiſtened with the ſame quantity of the ſolution of bay-ſalt, to which may be added a ſolution of ten pounds of good pot-aſh; or, in the place of pot-aſh, ten buſhels of good dry peat-aſhes ſhould be mixed with the gravel, and the whole be laid on the ground immediately, and covered as ſoon as poſſible.

When the ſoil is a mixture of chalk and loam, which is ſeldom very tenaceous, no kind of manure anſwers ſo well as a ſolution of bay-ſalt alone; two buſhells of this ſalt

ſhould

ſhould be mixed with four hogſheads of water, which is ſufficient for an acre, and ſprinkled over the ground, in the ſame manner that we ſprinkle the ſtreets of this metropolis to allay the duſt in the ſummer, at the ſame time that the ſeed is ſown, and before it is covered by harrowing. This kind of manure quickens vegetation ſurpriſingly in the chalky ſoil; the acid ſolution, by moiſtening the chalk, raiſes an effervescence therewith, which effectually diſſolves it, and developes its vegetating particles; and raiſes a produce ſuperior to any thing which could be expected in this kind of ſoil.

PROPOSAL III.

To encourage the planting of timber, in a more effectual manner than has been hitherto done in this kingdom.

IT is unpardonable in a kingdom, which maintains a numerous navy, and which has ſome hundreds of thouſands of acres of land as unfit for agriculture as for profitable paſture, to neglect giving proper encouragement for the planting of timber trees, which tend to highten

heighten the bulwark of the kingdom, to improve her waſte grounds, and to bring a certain and a conſiderable profit into the pockets of all our land-holders. But, notwithſtanding the advantages ariſing from this part of agriculture are ſo obvious, and the great public utility thereof ſo univerſally known, I cannot find a period in Britiſh hiſtory when this part of agriculture has been properly attended to in this iſland, notwithſtanding the good and welfare thereof has, in a great meaſure, depended upon it. The greateſt part of our old groves and foreſts have been cut down and deſtroyed, and the chief part of the land been otherwiſe, and perhaps more profitably, employed; but no care has been taken to improve our waſte grounds and hills by this method of culture, though ſuch great advantages may be drawn therefrom.

Since the beginning of the preſent century, indeed, many of our nobility and gentry, have endeavoured to cultivate different kinds of fir in this kingdom, but the ſucceſs which they have had has diſcovered the injudiciouſneſs of the undertaking. Every plant has its natural climate, in which it grows and arrives to perfection; out of this climate it may grow,

but

but never comes to a perfect ſtate: the cedars of the torrid zone will not flouriſh in Norway, nor the firs of Norway flouriſh in the torrid zone. The fir is chiefly an inhabitant of the cold climates, where the winters are very ſevere, and the ſurface of the earth frozen up; and there it flouriſhes, and comes to perfection; but when it is introduced into the more mild climates, it grows indeed, and is an ever-green, but it loſes its moſt eſſential qualities, namely, the hardneſs and elaſticity of its timber, and the quantity of its turpentine, and becomes a dry brittle, and looſely cohering wood, which is the caſe of all the fir-trees I have ſeen raiſed in England, and conſequently they can be of no ſervice but for fire-wood.

In the moſt northern parts of Scotland, and in the northern provinces of America, where the winters are very ſevere, we have this kind of wood in great perfection, and in quantity ſufficient for the uſe of all his majeſty's dominions; therefore to endeavour to cultivate a tree, which will not come to perfection in this climate, and to neglect the cultivation of thoſe which are natural

tural to the country, is a piece of abſurdity not to be accounted for. If therefore proper nurſeries of oak, elm, and ſuch other capital trees as are natural to this country, were made in every part of the kingdom, at the joint expence of the hundred; and if thoſe trees, while very young, were tranſplanted into the waſte grounds of every eſtate, in half a century we ſhould ſoon ſee every part of the kingdom have a proper ſupply of timber for ſhip-building, as well as for other uſes, without obſtructing the preſent ſyſtem of agriculture, or being in any conſiderable degree prejudicial to paſturage.

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SECTION V.

Containing a Plan for improving our Foreign Commerce.

PROPOSAL I.

To eſtabliſh a proper Police for the prevention of Smuggling.

AFTER ſo many well digeſted ſchemes which have been laid before the legiſlature for the preventing of ſmuggling, have proved ineffectual, mankind in general have been of the opinion, that it is impoſſible to find out a remedy for ſo deſperate a diſeaſe, which has been of ſo long a continuance. However, I muſt, with great ſubmiſſion, offer the following hint to the public, which, if properly improved, and carried into execution, will greatly relieve, if not totally root out this ſtubborn evil.

It is calculated that, by the ſmuggling trade in Great Britain only, there is a loſs of £. 1,000,000 *per annum* to his Majeſty's revenue,

venue, beſides all the ill effects which ariſe therefrom to the ſubject and fair trader.

The principal commodities which are ſmuggled into this iſland, and are moſt prejudicial to the natural intereſts thereof, are teas of all kinds, from France, Holland, and all the European powers trading to China; Geneva, French brandies, wines, foreign ſilks, and tobacco. The duties on each of thoſe articles are very high in this kingdom, and conſequently the ſmuggler's profit muſt be very great: in fact, the bait is ſo tempting, that he riſks his life and fortune to come at it; and by the connivance of many of our cuſtom-houſe officers, very frequently ſucceeds.

It is well known that the greateſt part of the teas, imported from China into Europe, is conſumed in England; and that all the European powers ſmuggle more or leſs of this commodity into this kingdom. If therefore the duties were entirely taken off from teas, and a general capitation tax laid on the conſumers, the revenue ariſing therefrom would amount to a much larger ſum than it does at preſent; the public would be conſiderable gainers; and foreigners and our ſmugglers would be the only ſufferers by this regulation;

tion; as our merchants would, by this means, be enabled to under-ſell them conſiderably.

This tax ſhould be levied on all perſons who made uſe of this commodity, and thoſe who could prove, that they never made uſe of it, ſhould be exempted therefrom.

Geneva, and French brandies, as they are not only detrimental to our trade, but hinder the ſale of our own ſpirits, ſhould be entirely prohibited, and ſevere fines laid on all perſons who ſhould import, or conſume the ſame, after ſuch prohibition. All foreign wrought ſilks, and velvets, ſhould alſo be prohibited, and any perſon who ſhould offer to import, or wear the ſame, after the paſſing ſuch a law, ſhould ſuffer a ſevere fine, by diſtreſs of goods, and as well a corporeal puniſhment.

The duties on French wines, which are the greateſt part of what is ſmuggled into this kingdom, ſhould be taken off, and a heavy tax ſhould be laid on the conſumers, in the following manner, *viz.* All gentlemen and others, who uſe French wine in their houſes, ſhould give in their names to the officers who collect the land-tax in their reſpective pariſhes, (who ſhould be the collectors of this tax) for the

the payment of this tax. And ſuch gentlemen, or others, who ſhould drink French wines in their houſes without entering their names, and paying the tax, as aforeſaid, ſhould ſuffer a heavy fine, to be recovered by any common informer, with tribble coſts of ſuit.

Tavern-keepers, coffee-houſe-keepers, &c. ſhould have a particular licenſe, and pay a large ſum annually, for the ſale of French wines; and ſuch tavern-keepers, &c. who ſhall ſell thoſe wines, without having ſuch a licenſe, and paying ſuch a ſum annually for the ſame, ſhall be puniſhed by a heavy fine as aforeſaid.

The privileges and exemptions given to the Iſle of Man, Guernſey, and Jerſey, are the chief ſprings that move the ſmuggling trade in this kingdom, particularly in the article of tobacco, which, I am very well perſuaded, could never be ſmuggled in the manner that it is, if thoſe iſlands were annexed to the crown of Great Britain, and a proper equivalent given to the preſent proprietors for their privileges. The inhabitants of the Iſle of Man, who are chiefly a ſet of ſmugglers and outlawed perſons, are known to carry on a ſmuggling trade of above 700,000 *l. per annum* to

Great

Great Britain and Ireland. Goods from France, Holland, Denmark, and almoſt every European power, are imported into this iſland, and from thence ſmuggled upon our coaſts, to the very great detriment of the fair trader; and I cannot help obſerving, that it is not a maſter-piece of policy for our government to ſuffer ſuch free ports to be in iſlands ſo near Great Britain and Ireland; does any European power permit us to uſe any port of its dominions for the like purpoſes?

It has been calculated that, during the preſent war, there has not been leſs than 50,000*l.* *per annum* carried out of the county of Cornwall, to the iſlands of Guernſey and Jerſey for teas, French brandies, and other contraband goods; and I make no doubt but a ſum almoſt equal to this is carried off annually from every county on the ſouthern coaſt of this kingdom.

PROPOSAL II.

To lay a tax of two ſhillings in the pound upon the intereſt of money lent in this kingdom.

THE jarring which has ſubſiſted between the monied and the landed intereſt of this kingdom, and the many advantages which the former has over the latter, is one of the principal reaſons which I ſhall offer for laying on this tax.

During the preſent war the monied men have made above five *per cent. per annum* of their money; and many great perſons in this metropolis, taking advantage of the diſtreſs of the nation, have accumulated very great fortunes, by lending their money to the government, notwithſtanding the payments of intereſt have been punctually made, and the ſecurity is unqueſtionable. The landed gentlemen, on the other hand, who pay at preſent the one fifth part of their yearly income, for the ſupport of the ſtate, find, by the exorbitant profits of the former, ſuch a load of debt on their eſtates, as muſt ſwallow up near the one fourth part of their income, and without

without the greateſt care is taken ſoon to diſcharge the ſame, by means of the ſinking fund, it muſt be an irredeemable mortgage. Hence, therefore, it will appear, that, at a time when our land-holders are greatly oppreſſed with heavy taxes, our merchants and monied men are accumulating large fortunes; which, in fact, has been the principal cauſe of the jarring and diſcontent that has for ſome time paſt ſubſiſted between our merchants and land-holders, to the very great detriment of the ſtate.

The monied men, I make no doubt, will loudly complain that, after they have uſed their utmoſt endeavours to ſupport the diſtreſſes of the government, the hardſhips impoſed upon them are intolerable; that the perpetual reductions of intereſt muſt greatly diſtreſs them, and, in the end, be the means of deſtroying the public credit. They will, moreover, ſet forth moſt pathetically the melancholy condition to which the widow and orphan, whoſe ſmall but ſole fortunes are in the funds, will be reduced, and the dangerous conſequences thereof. But I muſt beg leave to obſerve, that notwithſtanding the reductions of intereſt complained of, the profits

ariſing from the loan of money in this kingdom, where the ſecurity is good, are much greater in proportion than the profits which the landed gentlemen draw from their eſtates, as I ſhall clearly prove from the following example.

A perſon, at this time, may purchaſe a free-hold eſtate in many parts of the kingdom of 100*l. per annum* for 2,500*l.* but this eſtate perhaps was not valued, by the land ſurveyors, above 90*l. per annum*, and conſequently pays but 18*l. per annum* to the land-tax: then the repairs of this eſtate cannot be leſs than 5*l. per annum*; and if we allow 7*l. per annum* for loſſes ſuſtained by bad tenants, and to make up for the time the eſtate may be unlet, with other extraordinary expences, for which this ſum is but very ſmall, the land-holder will draw but 70*l. per annum* clear from his eſtate; but if the land-tax was only 2*s.* in the pound, he would draw 79*l. per annum.* Now, ſuppoſing this perſon was not acquainted with the method of making the moſt of his money, and, inſtead of laying out his money in an eſtate he was to purchaſe 4 *per cent.* annuities, which are now at par. the intereſt ariſing from 2,500*l.* would

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be 100*l.* *per annum*, clear of all deductions. But if the tax here propoſed was laid on the intereſt of money, he would ſtill receive 90*l.* *per annum*, and that paid half yearly, which is greatly ſuperior to a landed eſtate; and if the price of ſtocks was to riſe, the price of lands would riſe nearly in the ſame proportion, ſo that no advantage could be reaped therefrom.

From what has been ſaid, therefore, it will appear, that if the widow and orphan, who have their eſtates in money, ſuffer by this tax, the widow and orphan, who have their eſtates in land, will ſuffer much more by the continuance of the heavy tax upon it; and both the one and the other muſt take their ſhare in the common diſtreſs of their country. The intereſt paid by the government and individuals annually, for the loan of money, muſt exceed ſeven millions ſtirling; conſequently this tax of 2*s.* in the pound muſt amount to 700,000*l.* and upwards, which, if united to the ſurplus of the ſinking fund, would, under the direction of a frugal adminiſtration, be the means of paying off a great part of the national debt; which will not only be a great relief to trade in general, but alſo to the

landed gentlemen, who, after having bore the burden and heat of the day, during a long courſe of expenſive wars, would be glad to enjoy a little eaſe.

PROPOSAL III.

To eſtabliſh a new method for collecting the imported duties on all ſorts of goods.

IN France, Italy, and many other foreign countries, the method of collecting the duties upon imported goods is very different from what is purſued in England, and much more advantageous for the merchant who has but a ſmall capital.

In thoſe foreign countries, when goods are imported, they are lodged in the king's warehouſes, till the importer fetches them away, as he can find a market for them, and pays the duty, or cauſes it to be paid by the perſon who purchaſes of him; which is a great relief to the merchant whoſe capital is ſmall, and enables him to enter farther into foreign commerce than he could otherwiſe have done.

In Great Britain the caſe is very different; the merchant muſt pay the duty, or give ſecurity for the payment thereof, before he removes the goods from the quays; which, as I have already obſerved, greatly ſtreightens the importer for money to pay the duties every time his ſhip arrives, and very often is the occaſion of bankruptcy. If, therefore, we were to purſue the ſame method of collecting our duties on imported goods that is taken in foreign countries, I am perſuaded it would be productive of many good effects, and be the means of extending our foreign commerce. However, it would be neceſſary to leave it to the merchant's choice, to pay the duties immediately, and take his goods to his own cellar, or to leave them in the king's warehouſe, there to remain, at the uſual moderate rent for cellarage, 'till he finds it his intereſt to remove them, and then to pay the duties.

The firſt advantage that would ariſe to the public from this ſcheme, is, that it would render our country a kind of ſtore-houſe for others, and we ſhould get by it all the profits of freight, cellarage, commiſſion, &c.

2dly, Our merchants would hereby be enabled to buy up all kinds of goods that were

cheap in foreign countries, lodge them in our public warehouſes, and then re-export them to thoſe countries where they can have the beſt market for them; which cannot be done upon the preſent ſyſtem of collecting our duties.

3dly, If the regulation here propoſed was carried into execution, merchants might trade with a much ſmaller capital; and conſequently many perſons would engage in commerce, who are at preſent prevented by the ſmallneſs of their ſtock; and as trade increaſed, all foreign goods would be ſold to the public much cheaper.

4thly, When the duties are not paid all at once, but gradually, as the goods can find a market, the public will buy thoſe goods ſo much the cheaper; as they will only pay the ſimple duties, the expences of the adventure, and the merchant's profits thereupon: whereas, according to the preſent ſyſtem of collecting the revenue, the public pay, beſides the before mentioned articles, the intereſt, and the merchant's profits, upon the ſums advanced to make prompt payments of the King's duties; and if thoſe goods have paſſed from the importer to the retailer, through

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two or three hands, before they come to the public, then the conſumers pay intereſt upon intereſt, and gains upon gains, for the money firſt advanced in the payment of the King's revenue. The conſequence of which is, that our chief branches of commerce become monopolized by a few rich merchants, becauſe there is double the capital ſtock required to carry them on, and the temptations to, and profits of, ſmuggling becomes ſo much the greater.

5thly, If this regulation was carried into execution it would greatly leſſen the number of cuſtom-houſe officers, ſuch as land-waiters, tide-waiters, ſearchers, &c. &c. &c. Eight in ten of whom do more frequently connive at frauds than prevent them.

PROPOSAL IV.

To lay open our public Companies, and to diſcourage all Monopolies.

NOTHING is more diſcouraging to a free people, than to be deprived, in an arbitrary manner, of thoſe liberties and privileges which they are entitled to by the laws

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of their country: yet this is the caſe at preſent with a great number of the inhabitants of this iſland; who, by the laws of their country, are equally entitled to the liberties and privileges of a free people, yet, by the connivance of wicked miniſters, eight parts in ten of his majeſty's loyal ſubjects are deprived of thoſe privileges, to gratify the avarice and ambition of the remainder. Narrow and reſtrained companies are the bane of a commercial people, and have hurt the trade of Great Britain more eſſentially, with reſpect to France, than any thing elſe could do: this has been verified by the Turkey and Hudſon's-Bay companies. But, ſay the advocates for thoſe excluſive companies, in order to have a ſufficient fund to embark in any hazardous undertaking, which may require great ſums to be expended in ſhips, ſtores, artillery, fortifications, &c. before any profits can ariſe from the trade, it is but reaſonable that thoſe who raiſe a capital ſufficient for this purpoſe, which cannot be raiſed by private perſons, and adventure in a joint ſtock, ſhould be incorporated, and have a privilege excluding all others from interfering in this new branch of commerce, till the original adventurers are ſuffi-

ciently paid for the expences they were at, and as well for the risks they ran.

This reason is very good and justifiable in countries where the individuals are very poor, and where no private persons by themselves, nor voluntary associations, are equal to the undertaking, for it is better to have the trade of exclusive companies, than to have no trade at all; but, I apprehend, this is not the case in Great Britain at present, neither was there any justifiable reason given for the granting those charters for exclusive companies and monopolies in the reign of King Charles the Second, (when most of those charters were granted) except the pleasures of that Prince, which made him always in want of money, and the wickedness of his ministers, were thought sufficient reasons for oppressing the greatest part of the people. But farther, it may be said, that if our present exclusive companies were dissolved, the adventurers would be considerable losers, as they have not yet received a reasonable profit for the sums advanced by them to make good a capital fund; but as all mankind are well assured of the contrary, and as many persons are ready to give positive evidence of the same, it would

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be needleſs for me to offer any arguments to aſcertain the fact.

As I have heard no other juſtifiable reaſon offered by the advocates of the excluſive companies, for granting new excluſive charters to other companies, or for continuing thoſe which are at preſent ſubſiſting, I ſhall ſet forth ſome facts relative to thoſe companies, and from thence endeavour to ſhew the public, that they have been highly prejudicial to the commercial intereſt of this kingdom, and, except they are ſoon laid open, will be much more ſo. And,

Firſt, I will begin with the Turkey company, who formerly had all the trade for cloth to the Levant, and thereby got immenſe ſums of money: but, at laſt, their greedineſs for gain overcame their reaſon, and led them firſt to beat down the manufacturer's prices, whereby they were ſerved with inferior kinds of cloth, and thoſe alſo very bad of their kind. 2dly, They raiſed the price of thoſe cloths in the Turkey markets; which, with the many frauds that were practiſed on the cloths themſelves, very juſtly irritated the inhabitants of thoſe parts againſt our merchants;

and

and if they had had any rivals at that time, in the cloth trade, we ſhould have been entirely deprived of ſending any woollen goods to thoſe markets, to the very great loſs of the nation.

The French, who are ever jealous of the Engliſh manufactures and commerce, ſeeing the frauds that we were daily practiſing in the woollen trade, and hearing the murmurs of the Turks againſt us, thought it a very favourable opportunity to ſupplant us in this branch of trade, and have too happily ſucceeded: they ſet up manufactures of their own in imitation of ours, which manufactures ſtill bear the name from whence they were derived, viz. *Londrins premiers*, *Londrins ſeconds*, & *Londrins larges*. Thus did the French ſupplant us in this valuable branch of trade, and thus was the nation injured by the bad management of an excluſive company.

When this public grievance was lately debated in the great aſſembly of the nation, the Turkey company endeavoured to prove that the French got this branch of trade from us, not by the means before mentioned, but merely by the advantageouſneſs of their ſituation, and by the low price of labour in France,

which

which enabled the merchants in that kingdom to under-ſell us in thoſe markets; and to force mankind into a belief of this doctrine, they brought ſeveral of their friends to aſſert this fact at the bar of the houſe of commons; but our moſt eminent manufacturers, who were thoroughly acquainted with this matter, were amuſed with idle tales, made to believe that the woollen trade to Turkey was to be conſiderably increaſed, and in fact received ſome orders for that purpoſe, 'till the matter was dropt in the houſe of commons, and then, to their great aſtoniſhment, they were ſoon informed to the contrary; and I have heard one of the principal manufacturers in Wiltſhire affirm, that if he had the Barbary wool as before mentioned, and had the liberty to ſhip off the woollen goods from Briſtol, and the weſtern ports of the kingdom, he could under-ſell the French in thoſe markets, and, at the ſame time, ſell much better goods for the uſe of that country; and I ſhall ſtate the following facts to corroborate his evidence.

1ſt, That the price of labouring manufacturers in France is not much inferior to what it is in England, and an Engliſh manufacturer

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does as much work in ſix days as a Frenchman can do in ſeven days, as hath been already obſerved; therefore the French have no advantage over us in this particular.

2dly, The French purchaſe wool from Turkey and the coaſts of Barbary, for one third of the money which they pay for the wool in Biſcay; and, therefore, have greatly the advantage of us in this article; but then they are obliged to carry this wool from Marſeilles to Carcaſſonne, which is between 130 and 140 miles, chiefly by land-carriage, and then to carry the cloth back again to Marſeilles, which cannot be done at a ſmall expence; and, conſequently, if our weſtern ports were open for the exportation of cloth to Turkey, we ſhould certainly have the advantage of them in this particular.

3dly, The French are obliged to have tin and lead from England, and ſpices and other commodities from Holland, for the Turkey markets, in all which we have the advantage of them; and I believe no body will heſitate to ſay, that if our trade to Turkey was open, we have many advantages which the French have not, to counter ballance the inconvenience of our ſituation; and if we had the Turkey

key and Barbary wool upon ſo good a footing as they have, we might ſoon regain our woollen trade in the Turkey markets.

The Hudſon's Bay company, through the ſame principle of avarice, has been as detrimental to the trade and manufactures of Great Britain, as the Turkey company, as was clearly proved before the houſe of commons in the year 1748; and if the French had not been driven out of North-America, and the furr trade of Canada been laid open, this company would not only have ruined our hat trade, and given the French a ſuperiority over us in all the foreign markets, but they would have entirely alienated moſt of the Indian nations from our intereſt: thoſe facts have been ſo clearly proved by the ingenious Dr. Tucker, that it would be needleſs for me to ſay any thing farther on the matter; and therefore I ſhall only make a few general obſervations on what has been ſaid, to ſhew mankind the deſtructive conſequences which muſt always attend thoſe nuiſances to a free trade.

Firſt, then, private adventurers, where a branch of commerce is open, can trade upon a better footing than thoſe excluſive companies, even ſuppoſing that ſuch companies were con-

contented with the ſame profits as the private adventurers, becauſe theſe adventurers have no directors, ſtorehouſe-keepers, factors, ſupercargoes, clerks, agents, &c. to maintain out of the profits of their trade; they are not burdened with the expences of carrying many ſorts of manufactured goods from different parts of the country, where they were manufactured, up to the metropolis, but take the advantage of ſhipping them off from the neareſt and moſt convenient port; they are alſo freed from the expences of warehouſes, and a great number of under ſervants, which muſt neceſſarily fall on companies; and conſequently make it impoſſible for ſuch companies to trade upon ſo eaſy terms as they can, or to make their commerce ſo extenſive. Hence it is that private merchants, when they are permitted to engage in the ſame branches of commerce, will infallibly carry them away from thoſe companies; and that, when two nations are rivals in the ſame trade, that nation which permits a free trade will always be ſuperior to the other, which confines it to excluſive companies.

When a company have got an excluſive charter, they enter into trade with views very

different from thoſe of private adventurers: the former endeavour to enrich themſelves by exorbitant profits; their charter ſecures them from rivals, and therefore they have no occaſion to eſtabliſh a trade by ſelling their commodities at reaſonable rates; but on the contrary, as they have the whole trade to themſelves, they buy and ſell at their own price.

Private adventurers endeavour to enrich themſelves by the moderate profits which ariſe from an extenſive commerce; which they are frequently obliged to acquire by indefatigable pains, and a great expence; for, where there are many competitors, thoſe who would acquire an extenſive commerce muſt ſell for ſmaller profits than their neighbours, and make up ſmall loſſes by their induſtry. And this accounts for ſome tranſactions which we hear of almoſt every day, in a free trade; namely, of merchants, who have large capitals, ſinking ſome part thereof, thereby to under-ſell others, trading in the ſame branch, who have leſs, in order to break them, and by that means acquire the whole branch to themſelves; and when they have done that, they will raiſe the price of their commodities again, and ſoon make up for the loſſes they have incurred.

red. Hence therefore, if private adventurers can find their account in sinking part of their capital, to enable them to sell cheaper to the public, in order to acquire a monopoly in a free trade, how exorbitant must be the profits of exclusive companies who have none to rival them? and how much must the public be injured by their proceedings?

PROPOSAL V.

To establish a civil government in Minorca, and to make Port-Mahone a free Port.

THE island of Minorca is most happily situated for carrying on an advantageous trade with Spain, part of France, Italy, and all the coasts of Barbary. Many of our coarse low-prized woollen stuffs, Norwich and Manchester goods, would be very acceptable to the inhabitants of Barbary, for which they would readily barter their fine wool at a very low price; which would be a very advantageous branch of commerce for this kingdom; but this can never be well established 'till we have a free port in the Mediterranean Sea.

A great quantity of our Spital-fields and Manchester goods would, by this means, find

their way to France, Spain, and Italy, as they are very agreeable to the taſte of thoſe nations. But our gold and ſilver watches, cutlery-ware, locks, metal-buttons, ſnuff-boxes, &c. would find the greateſt vent in all theſe countries, particularly in Barbary, where the people are very fond of thoſe commodities. Many other kinds of Engliſh manufactured goods would, by this means, find a market in Barbary, as well as on the European coaſts, and the leaſt amount of the extraordinary trade which might be carried on by means of this port being made free would be 150,000 *l. per annum*, excluſive of the advantages which might be drawn from the wool, mohair, and other raw materials which we might import in barter from the coaſts of Africa; which, in my humble opinion, is an object very well worth the attention of our government. Moreover, if this port was laid open, in all probability the iſland of Minorca would be chiefly inhabited by Engliſh families, or at leaſt by ſuch as are well affected to the Engliſh government, whereas at preſent they are all, except the garriſon, bigoted Spaniards, whoſe averſion to our religion and government is inſurmountable, notwithſtanding they have acquired immenſe riches ſince the iſland has been in our poſſeſſion.

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PROPOSAL VI.

To give large bounties for the encouragement of a Trade with our North-American Colonies; eſpecially in ſuch articles as ſhall make for the mutual advantage of both the mother country and her colonies.

SINCE we have made ſuch immenſe conqueſts on the North-American continent, which are to be guarantied to us by the preſent treaty of peace, that mighty empire, from its favourable ſituation, is capable of producing the greateſt part of the raw materials which are uſed in all our manufactured goods, which we are, at preſent, obliged to purchaſe of foreigners, many of whom, by that means, have a very great ballance of trade againſt us; and therefore the reaſons for this propoſal are very obvious and convincing. Beſides the natural intereſt of Great Britain and North-America is ſo cloſely connected, that their loſs muſt inevitably be our loſs; for if we do not aſſiſt them in taking off their raw materials, they cannot purchaſe our manufactured goods, but will purchaſe what they are in want of from foreigners, who will take thoſe raw materials, and in the end, not only manufacture for themſelves, but alſo oppoſe us in foreign

markets. However, I am well convinced that many ſelf-intereſted perſons will turn this matter into ridicule, and abſolutely aſſert the impoſſibility of their introducing and eſtabliſhing manufactures amongſt them, ſo as to be in any degree detrimental to this kingdom, and therefore I ſhall aſſert ſome facts to corroborate what has been advanced.

In the year 1755 and 1756, when the French had attacked, and made themſelves maſters of, our barrier forts, they ſpirited up the Indians to make war againſt the planters in our back ſettlements, many of whom were murdered and ſcalped, whilſt the others left their plantations, and with their families and effects, travelled eaſtward, and took up their reſidence in or near the ſea-port towns of New England and Penſylvania; but, as the plantations of theſe parts were, at that time, ſo well inhabited as the produce of agriculture would ſupport, thoſe people found a great difficulty in ſupporting their families, and, as they were chiefly Scotch and Iriſh, began to manufacture flax and wool; the inhabitants of thoſe colonies, perceiving their induſtry and laudable intention, encouraged them therein, ſo that they have a very flouriſhing linen manufactury at this time in Boſton, ſupported by

all the merchants of that place, and another within 20 miles of Philadelphia, which is equally encouraged by the quakers. Beſides, there are ſeveral woollen manufactures on this coaſt, which work up the greateſt part of the wool of New England. But further; the North-Americans, not content with ſetting up manufactures among themſelves, which greatly interfere with the trade and proſperity of their mother country, by the connivance of the cuſtom-houſe officers which we nominate to to them, (many of whom employ American deputies, and have their reſidence in London) ſmuggle into that continent a large quantity of Dutch, German, and French manufactured goods. In fact, above the one third of the manufactured goods that are conſumed in North-America are the produce of France and Holland, notwithſtanding our laws expreſsly forbid the importation of any manufactured goods into thoſe colonies, but ſuch as are exported from Great Britain or Ireland. Hence, therefore, unleſs we extend our commerce with thoſe people, and take off the produce of their plantations, neceſſity will reduce them to permit ſuch nations to come and trade with them, who will take off the produce of their plantations, and, in bar-

ter for the ſame, ſupply them with ſuch manufactured goods as they are in want of.

The true policy of this kingdom, in my humble opinion, will be the ſecuring our back ſettlements from the inſults of the ſavages, and the adding more territory to the ſame; which ſhould be the firſt remedy we apply to this growing evil. No people upon earth, perhaps, are more actuated by the ſpirit of independency than the Americans; they are enthuſiaſtically fond of liberty, and would not, if poſſible, acknowledge any lord or maſter, but their Lord God. Therefore people of this diſpoſition would never work under a maſter, in a manufactory, for 1 *s. per* day, if they could have plantations of their own, be maſters themſelves, and from thence make 5 *s. per* day.

But true policy would lead us, not only to furniſh thoſe people with plantations, and to protect them therein, but alſo to purchaſe the produce of their labours, and, in barter for the ſame, to ſupply them with all kinds of manufactured goods; for if we neglect to purchaſe the produce of the earth, they can never purchaſe our manufactured goods. A man may have forty quarters of grain, a ſcore of fat cattle, a hundred ſheep, &c. &c. to ſell,

when

when he has not a coat to wear, and if he cannot find a market for his goods, he cannot purchaſe our cloth to make himſelf one.

There is no part of the known world, perhaps, which is better calculated for an inland navigation than North-America, as many of our colonies are ſo full of lakes and navigable rivers, that all the land-carriage, from the Apalachian mountains to the moſt conſiderable ſea-port towns, of the ſeveral portages added together, would not amount to 30 miles. But perhaps it may be aſked, What can the American planters raiſe in thoſe inland ſettlements wherewith to ſupport themſelves, and pay us for our manufactured goods? I anſwer, fine horſes, black cattle, ſheep, flax, hemp, wool, ſilk, ſilk-graſs, pot-aſh, pearl-aſh; and in the ſouthern colonies, cochineal, indigo, ſafflower, cotton, cinnamon, olive-oil, currants, raiſins, wines, aloes, ſcammony, opium, and many other kinds of drugs; all which might be eaſily produced in thoſe ſettlements; and, as the living commodities would greatly aſſiſt in bringing the dead ſtuff to market, they may almoſt as eaſily be brought to the maritime towns. Theſe are the raw materials which ſhould be particularly encouraged in our inland ſettlements, to barter in return

turn for our manufactured goods; eſpecially as we are obliged to import a great quantity of thoſe commodities, from foreign nations, for the uſe of our manufactures; and thereby give thoſe nations a great ballance of trade againſt us.

But farther; whilſt we are protecting and encouraging our back ſettlements, we muſt not forget to divert the thoughts of the inhabitants, in the more populous places on the ſea-coaſts, from entering into manufactures, by giving great encouragement for bringing their raw materials to a Britiſh market, eſpecially ſuch as are of general uſe in our manufactures.

The firſt and principal commodity of thoſe parts which I would, with great ſubmiſſion, recommend to our legiſlature for encouragement, is bar-iron; a commodity for which, according to the beſt calculation, we pay, at preſent, to Sweden a ballance of trade in ſpecie of above 300,000 *l. per annum*; which is a ſum worthy of our conſideration, notwithſtanding our trade is ſo very large. Now it is well known that bar-iron, and what was very good in its kind, has been made in North America for more than thirty

years

years paſt, though it is not but a few years ſince that the Americans were legally authorized to make bar-iron, and to import it into the ports of Great Britain; and even this law, though in itſelf ſo much for the intereſt of this kingdom, was ſtrongly oppoſed by many ſelf-intereſted and deſigning people. The diſcovery of iron-ore only, which would make good bar-iron, in North-America, would, if properly encouraged, have been of great advantage to that country, as well as to us; but a diſcovery which is lately made by the Rev. Mr. Jare Elliott of New-England, if properly attended to, muſt be of the utmoſt ſervice to this kingdom, ſave her the ballance in ſpecie ſhe pays to Sweden, and turn that branch of trade into her own colonies, where ſhe may pay for this material with her own manufactures. This ingenious gentleman has lately diſcovered the ſand on the ſea-ſhore of New-England to contain 50 parts in 83 of fine iron, ſuperior to any that is imported by us from Sweden; as the ſea, which has waſhed off this ſand from veins of iron-ore, has diſſolved its ſulphurous and arſenical particles, and left the iron ſo fine and pure that it is ſtrongly attracted by the magnet in its natural ſtate, and

runs

runs into fine bar-iron, from which may be made the beſt of ſteel, by only once melting with the common flux. This gentleman informs his friends in England, that himſelf, or any other perſon in New England or Penſylvania, as this ſand covers the whole beach for ſeveral hundred miles long, who has a plantation on the ſea-coaſt, may have 33 ¼ Cwt. of this ſand, which makes one ton of fine bar-iron, brought to the furnace for 20*s.* ſtirling. Hence, therefore, if thoſe Americans were properly encouraged, for a few years, till they had taſted the ſweets of this advantageous trade, by a ſmall bounty from our government, they could not only afford to ſell their bar-iron 20 *l. per cent.* cheaper than the Swedes do theirs, and gain large fortunes thereby, but they would be very glad to take our manufactured goods in barter for the ſame; which would be a mutual benefit to both countries, and a mutual benefit is a mutual dependence.

Our colonies likewiſe produce moſt excellent firs of all kinds, hemp, and all kinds of naval ſtores, which may be very eaſily ſhipped off; but yet, to the aſtoniſhment of all the thinking part of mankind, we are paying a very

very large ballance of trade, in ſpecie, annually, to Ruſſia, Denmark, and Sweden, for thoſe very commodities; and I make no doubt but that, if an attempt was made to turn this branch of trade into a new channel, the Baltic traders would be ready to cry out that their trade would be ruined, and the nation deſtroyed. But, diſregarding thoſe ſelf-intereſted clamors, no prudent merchant will readily engage in this trade, as the profits, till the trade is thoroughly eſtabliſhed, will be very ſmall, from the efforts of the Baltic traders to under-ſell the American commodities; therefore the only method by which this trade may be expeditiouſly turned into a new channel, without any loſs to the merchant-adventurers, eſpecially as our American colonies could immediately furniſh a ſufficient quantity of thoſe raw materials for our own conſumption, is, in the firſt place, by laying additional duties on the Baltic commodities, and thereby render them dearer to the conſumer. 2dly, By giving a ſmall bounty on the American commodities, for a few years, till the trade was thoroughly eſtabliſhed, which would enable the merchant to ſell thoſe commodities upon a better footing than he could thoſe of the Baltic.

tic. 3dly, To excite the merchants to engage in the American trade, and to raiſe a ſpirit of emulation amongſt them, it would be neceſſary to give perſonal premiums to ſuch as ſhall import into Great Britain the greateſt quantity of thoſe commodities, and the beſt in quality: this method would infallibly turn this branch of trade into a new channel.

But ſtill there is one objection to be made to it, and which, I muſt confeſs, has ſome weight; and that is, that every additional duty put upon the produce of a foreign country, will be looked upon, by that country, as a breach of the articles of trade and commerce ſubſiſting between the two powers, which they will be ſure to revenge upon the produce of the country that was the aggreſſor. With reſpect to Denmark and Sweden, which take off very few Engliſh commodities, but receive their payments chiefly in ſpecie, we need not give ourſelves any concern, their trade being rather a diſadvantage than an advantage to Great Britain; but with reſpect to Ruſſia, which for ſeveral years paſt has taken off a great quantity of the manufactured goods and commodities of this iſland, and which increaſes the ſame annually, the caſe is very different,

and

and the leſſening the quantity of our imports from this country ſhould be managed with the greateſt caution, by turning the ſcale gradually to the ſide we would favour, beginning only with particular articles, to avoid giving cauſe for complaint.

PROPOSAL VII.

To eſtabliſh a colony for the growth of ſugars, coffee, cocoa-nut, indigo, &c. in the eaſtern part of Louiſiana.

THAT vaſt tract of fertile country, on the eaſtern ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, which has lately been guarantied to us by France, has been by many hiſtorians called the garden of the world, for the richneſs of its ſoil and the mildneſs of its atmoſphere. It is watered on the weſtern ſide by the great river Miſſiſſippi, which is very large and deep, and navigable near 500 leagues from its mouth. The current in this river is ſo very gentle that ſhips may be worked up againſt it with the greateſt eaſe. But what makes this country the more agreeable, and valuable, is, that there are, according to Monſ. Deſale, ſeven large rivers which

which ariſe out of the Apalachian hills, at the back of Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia, and empty themſelves into the Miſſiſſippi, and are navigable through this fine country near 300 leagues each.

The climate is the moſt favourable to vegetation of any part in the world; the winter being very ſhort, and is diſtinguiſhed only by ſome heavy rains. The ſoil, which is chiefly a ſandy loam, is uncommonly fertile, as it yields three or four crops every year; and nothing can be more delightful than their meadows on the banks of the rivers, which are fenced with tall cedars, and interſperſed with pleaſant groves of the ſame wood. The country produces rice and all kinds of grain, ſugars, coffee, cocoa, indigo, cotton, tobacco, cinnamon, cochineal, vines, which produce an excellent wine, olives, currants, raiſins, lemons, oranges, logwood, ſaſſafras, and many other drugs; the fields produce exceeding fine paſturage, and almoſt every kind of herbaceous plant produced in the ſouthern parts of Europe, together with many others which are unknown to us. The French inhabitants in this colony ſupport themſelves by cultivating ſugar, coffee, cotton, and all the produce of the Weſt-India

iſlands;

iſlands; and, as this country is very extenſive, and full of navigable rivers, whereby the produce of agriculture may be eaſily exported, it will be a good ſuccedanum to our Weſt-India iſlands, which, in leſs than half a century of years, will be of very little value to this kingdom, or, in fact, to their own proprietors.

It is well known that thirty years ſince, we had the ſame ſort of ſugars for ſix-pence and eight-pence *per* pound, that at preſent we pay one ſhilling, and one ſhilling and two-pence *per* pound for; and many people are of the opinion, that this riſe of the price of ſugars proceeded from a monopolizing of the ſame, by ſome of our Weſt-India merchants, eſpecially as the French could ſo much under-ſell us; but this is not the caſe, as I ſhall preſently prove. The Weſt-India planters poſitively affirm, that they got greater profits thirty years ſince, by ſelling their ſugars at three-pence *per* pound, than they can at this time by ſelling them at five pence *per* pound; and when we conſider the great expence they are at in cultivating their ground, and the ſmall crops which their almoſt worn-out ſoil produces at this time, there is all the reaſon in the

world to believe them. Many of the beſt ſituated plantations in Jamaica, Barbadoes, and all our principal iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, are worn out, and the ſoil in the greateſt part of our ſugar plantations is ſo much weakened that it will produce but very ſmall crops. Such a large vegetable, as they extract the ſugar from, planted for twenty years ſucceſſively in an eſtate, will not fail to wear out the richeſt ſoil. The manuring of land in thoſe iſlands comes out very dear, and if we add to theſe a certain degree of luxury which thoſe planters are fallen into, it will not be very difficult to account for the high price of ſugars at preſent, which will continue to riſe as the plantations wear out; and forty years hence, we ſhall have very little ſugar grown in thoſe iſlands. It may be ſaid that there is land enough in our Weſt-India iſlands yet uncultivated to produce a ſufficient quantity of ſugar for all Europe for a century of years. There is undoubtedly land ſufficient, but it is mountainous; and thoſe fertile ſpots among the mountains, in the interior parts of the iſland, are not proper for ſugar land; becauſe, for want of navigable rivers, the expence of carrying the ſugar to the ſea-ports would be

more

more than it is worth. The French ſugar colonies are not ſo much worn out as ours are, the ſoil is naturally better, and they have a better way of cultivating them; moreover the French ſugar colonies are divided among a greater number of planters than ours are, and thoſe planters are frugal induſtrious people, and conſequently they can afford to ſell their ſugars at preſent cheaper than we can. However, they foreſaw that their ſmall iſlands would be ſoon worn out, and therefore when they found that their extenſive ſettlements in St. Domingo would not produce ſugar (a few plantations on the ſea-coaſts excepted) they reſolved to cultivate Louiſiana therewith; a place formed by nature for that purpoſe; a country full of navigable rivers, and covered with a very rich ſoil. Hence therefore when all our ſugar iſlands are impoveriſhed, if we cultivate the eaſtern part of Louiſiana as I have here propoſed, we ſhall have ſugar lands ſufficient to ſupply all Europe with that commodity, and that at as cheap a rate as the French can ſupply the European markets with this commodity at this time, and much cheaper than they will be able to do it thirty years hence; and conſequently every impartial perſon

ſon muſt acknowledge, that this colony, if it was cultivated, would be a more valuable acquiſition to Great Britain than all the ſugar iſlands put together, excluſive of the extenſive trade which might by this means be carried on with the Spaniards in the gulph of Mexico, and with the Indian nations, and of the great improvements and diſcoveries which might be made in the interior parts of this extenſive colony.

FINIS.